

Jordan honours martyr

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday attended a ceremony to observe the 11th anniversary of the establishment of an air base named after the martyr, Pilot Muwaffaq Sali. King Hussein listened to an address on the occasion delivered by the base commander and then he distributed awards to a number of veteran officers. The King later watched an air show by the Jordanian Royal Air Force and later inspected air force equipment displayed at a special exhibition showing various weapons and aircraft used by the air force. He also watched target shooting exercises with live ammunition executed by helicopters and fighter planes. Princes Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Faisal Ben Al Hussein along with Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and senior officers were present at the ceremony. King Hussein conferred posthumously on the late pilot Muwaffaq Sali the Jordanian medal of the first Order. Sali died in air operations over an area near Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

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Boudiaf assassinated

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian head of state Mohammed Boudiaf was assassinated in a hail of sub-machinegun fire on Monday, five months after his appointment blocked a Muslim fundamentalist general election victory.

Two grenade blasts took the platform where he was giving a public speech in Annaba, east Algeria, before a gunman, in police uniform cut him down with bullets in the back and head.

Mr. Boudiaf's bodyguard killed the assassin on the spot. The official news agency APS said further shooting erupted in the cultural centre which the 73-year-old head of state was officially opening.

About 30 people were wounded, it said, including Industry and Mines Minister Abdelou Karamane, and the top government official for Annaba province.

But a doctor at a hospital in

Annaba told Reuters by phone: "There are several dead... several hundred wounded."

Algeria radio issued appeals for blood.

The gunman "emptied the magazine of his sub-machinegun in his (Boudiaf's) direction, hitting him in the head and back before being shot dead in turn by the president's bodyguard," APS said.

It was the Arab World's most dramatic political killing since Egyptian fundamentalists assassinated President Anwar Sadat on a reviewing stand in October 1981.

Diplomats said the killing could only worsen the turmoil and uncertainty into which the country had plunged since a wave of fundamentalism took the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to power in local authorities in June 1990.

The FIS last December took a landslide lead in the country's first multi-party general election. President Chadli Benjedid, who had been attempting to lead the country to democracy, then resigned in what diplomats termed a coup d'etat over the FIS advance.

They suggest then that Mr. Boudiaf, in exile for 27 years, had been chosen as a symbol of the revolution, someone untainted by nearly three decades of political infighting and free from allegations of corruption.

"The security forces might want to take advantage of this now to put in a real strongman," said one Western diplomat on Monday.

He suggested a natural choice could be Interior Minister Laarbi Belkheir, in charge of running the state of emergency decreed by Boudiaf last February after un-

rest followed the cancellation of the elections.

The collective presidency, after announcing Mr. Boudiaf's death, went into emergency session with the supreme security body.

It declared seven days of mourning for the 73-year-old Boudiaf and appealed to Algeria's 25 million population to react with dignity.

"The High Council of State (collective presidency) has the sadness to announce that President Mohammed Boudiaf has just died after a criminal attack..." the presidency said.

The nation's 30th anniversary celebrations of independence from France, due to be held on July 5, were cancelled. State television repeated verses for the dead from the Koran and radios played classical music.

Algeria's first president, Ahmad Ben Bella, who in 1964 condemned Mr. Boudiaf to death in his absence for political activity, denounced Monday's killing as "a criminal act against one of the symbols of the Algerian revolution."

The former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), which opposed Mr. Boudiaf's political efforts to attract grassroots support, also condemned the violence.

Algeria's Communist Socialist avant-garde party blamed "an alliance of totalitarian fundamentalists" and other agents.

One Western diplomat commented: "Whoever they were, they were well organised. Two grenades and then someone close in to kill Boudiaf shows organisation."

Draft law on political parties inches ahead in Lower House

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A definition of political parties and a rejection of links with political organisations outside the Kingdom was agreed upon during Monday's evening session of Parliament.

After objections from the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc, the House passed Article 3 of the draft law, which defines political parties, by a vote of 40-21. Article three defined political parties as political organisations and not "groups" as the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc in particular had requested.

The Brotherhood and some independent Islamists had been haggling over the use of terminology for the first two sessions of the extraordinary session.

The Brotherhood were joined by pan-Arabist, Baathist and left wing parliamentarians when it came to the issue of independence of Jordanian political parties from sister ideological parties outside the Kingdom.

Jordanian members of the Muslim Brotherhood, pan-Arabists, Baathists and leftists all have had links with parties outside the Kingdom due to their ideological links. During the

1950s when pan-Arabism bloomed in most of the Arab world, political boundaries were considered artificial and instruments to divide and rule the Middle East and most of the Third World.

Islamists, pan-Arabists and leftists could not but reject Article six of the draft law. With a 30-30 tie on Article six, House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat cast his vote in favour of Article six, which denies Jordanian parties any political or economic links to political parties outside the King-

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Mixed reaction to Algerian developments

By Ayman Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government on Monday described the assassination of Algeria's head of state, Mohammed Boudiaf as a tragic and painful incident, but Islamist members of Parliament said Boudiaf should have expected this end.

Mr. Boudiaf, a national hero of independence returned to Algeria early this year to head the presidency council after the overthrow of Chadli Benjedid.

Under his leadership, the council cancelled national elections that were sure to carry the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to power, declared a state of emergency in the country and jailed the leaders

of the FIS.

The shooting of Mr. Boudiaf is a "tragic, sorry and painful incident," Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif told the Jordan Times on Monday.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat said the assassination was not acceptable but so is curbing the freedom of the people. "What is happening in Algeria is regrettable," he said, and "we call for the respect of the will of the people."

"I am not shedding any tears over the death of Boudiaf," Islamist Deputy Theeb Anis said. He said that Mr. Boudiaf was a "butcher who jailed the best of his people."

We as Muslim brothers reject violence as means of dealing with thought and emphasise the need for dialogue, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ziad Abu Ghanimeh said. "But when authorities start using violence against its people, the blame for violence should fall on the authorities and not on the people," he said.

Other members of Parliament said they condemn the use of force to achieve political goals no matter what the circumstances are.

"I condemn terrorism simply because it is not right," said Abdul Kareem Al Dughni, a former minister and an independent member of Parliament. Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said he

hoped the assassination of Mr. Boudiaf would be a lesson that all governments attempting to oppress the will of their peoples would note.

The lesson from this incident, he said, is the need to return to free democracy and pluralism where everybody is entitled to free expression of his beliefs.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker expressed sorrow and grief over the assassination of Mr. Boudiaf.

In a cable of condolences which he sent to Algerian Prime Minister Ahmad Ghazali on Monday, Sharif Zeid wished Algeria peace and stability, stressing his condemnation of political assassination as a means of achieving goals.

King lauds Mitterrand for Sarajevo mission

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday hailed French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Sarajevo as a brave and daring humanitarian gesture and expressed hope that the step would trigger serious efforts to bring about peace to Bosnia Herzegovina.

"We have followed up with deep interest and admiration your visit to Sarajevo under very serious security circumstances," said the King in a message to the French president.

"Jordan highly values your humanitarian gesture which reflects your keenness on ensuring a ceasefire and ending the suffering of the innocent civilian population in Sarajevo and hopes that this step, coupled with all other efforts and good offices by all other concerned parties would finally bring about peace to the embattled nation," said the King.

The King noted that Jordan, acting in response to the need of contributing towards peace in Yugoslavia, consented to a United Nations request to send troops to the U.N.-peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia, he said.

Jordan's participation in peacekeeping operations is a source of pride for Jordan reflecting the Kingdom's constant struggle towards ensuring and contributing to the establishment of a just and lasting peace, and in upholding the international legitimacy and ending the injustices done to people under the yoke of repression and occupation and in support for all efforts towards helping all people to win the right to freedom and self-determination."

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Jordanians tighten sanctions against Iraq

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan has moved to tighten sanctions against Baghdad, scrutinising Iraq-bound cargo and banning contraband from leaving its territory, private customs-clearing agents said Monday.

The move came a week after Jordan formally rejected a U.S. proposal to station U.N. inspectors at Aqaba to monitor the embargo.

Washington's proposal had followed U.S. reports that claimed Jordan was busting the sanctions by letting Iraq-bound cargo be unloaded in Aqaba, then trucked across the border.

A top Jordanian official revealed for the first time that the American proposal was coupled with a U.S. offer to supply oil, presumably from Saudi Arabia — initially at international prices but later at concessionary rates.

The official, who insisted on

anonymity, said the American plan was delivered verbally to King Hussein by a senior U.S. envoy but he rejected it because it infringed on Jordan's sovereignty.

"We are not smugglers or criminals to accept inspectors checking on us in line with the wishes of someone," the official told a gathering of foreign correspondents Sunday.

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Israeli helicopters attack Lebanon Hizbollah 'base'

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (R) — Israeli helicopters blasted a house owned by resistance leader in South Lebanon Monday in their first air strike since elections in Israel last week.

Three Israeli helicopter gunships fired three rockets into the house in Haris village, one kilometre north of Israel's "security zone" in the south, security sources said.

There were no casualties but the building was badly damaged, the sources said.

In Israel, an army spokesman said: "Israeli air force planes this afternoon attacked a Hizbollah post in the area of Haris village. The post was hit and all our planes returned safely to base."

The air raid, the first since Yitzhak Rabin's victory in Israeli elections last Tuesday, was in retaliation for a Hizbollah attack that wounded four Israeli soldiers on Sunday.

Lebanese troops on frontlines

facing the "security zone" were placed on high alert after Israeli retaliatory shelling.

Four civilians including a 90-year-old man and two women were killed and three civilians wounded by Israeli shelling of villages north of the buffer zone after the attack.

Israeli and allied Lebanese gunners pounded Iqim Al Tounah region where Hizbollah guerrillas are active north of the "security zone" for two hours on Monday but no casualties were reported.

Monday's air raid was the 15th Israeli air strike into Lebanon since Israel escalated its retaliation after guerrillas stepped up their attacks in the buffer enclave five weeks ago.

Israel asked Beirut at Arab-Israeli peace talks to halt guerrilla attacks. But Lebanon, calling the attacks legitimate resistance action, refused and demanded an Israeli withdrawal.

Despite concern Jordan keeps door open for reconciliation

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's efforts towards healing the rift with Gulf Arab states have made little headway, but the Kingdom is continuing to keep channels open for reconciliation despite indications that the pressure it faces is originating from the region, a senior official said.

"We have not seen any sign of goodwill (in response to Jordan's efforts) and we don't really know what more we can do," said the official. But it remains Jordan's hope that the positions it adopted would be seen in their right perspective in due course of time and the strain in relations with the Gulf Arab states would be mended, the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The rift stemmed from conflicting stands Jordan and the Gulf Arab states took towards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and the resulting crisis.

There was no difference in principle over the inadmissibility of Iraq's take-over and occupation of Kuwait and the necessity to reverse it. But strains appeared when Jordan advocated a solution within the Arab context and refused to join the American-led military coalition which forced the Iraqis out of Kuwait in February 1991.

The Gulf states were prominent members of the coalition. But Jordan's relations with the Sultanate of Oman, a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), remained untarnished.

"Jordanian-Omani relations are as strong as ever," according to the official.

Jordan is facing immense pressure from various sources not only in the form of the Gulf states' non-responsive mood to reconciliation with the Kingdom but also a "smear campaign" aimed at undermining its credibility in the international scene, the official said.

Jordanian officials and analysts

said that most of the media reports accusing Jordan of violating the sanctions against Iraq and thus contributing to the continuity of the regime of President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad are part of the campaign against the Kingdom and appear to be funded by some of the Gulf Arab states.

The allegations against the Kingdom have appeared in television and radio programmes as well as newspapers, "some of them from elements with questionable motives," said the senior official without elaboration.

Other officials said the reference included former Petra Bank chairman Ahmad Chalabi, who was sentenced in absentia to life in prison in Jordan two months ago on charges related to the collapse of the bank.

Mr. Chalabi, who fled Jordan in August 1989, is now a self-styled leader of Iraqi dissidents based in London. He was one of the "stars" in an international television programme broadcast late last year and in his comments

he alleged Jordanian involvement at the highest level in the sanctions-busting in what was seen in Amman by officials as his way of getting back at Jordan for prosecuting him.

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violations of the sanctions. "The pattern is unmistakable," said another official. "Whenever Jordan reaffirms its commitment to U.N. Security Council resolutions and its adherence to the sanctions against Iraq, there comes out a report alleging that we are not living up to our pledge and promise and are violating the embargo."

"If that is not a concerted campaign to cast doubt on our credibility then I don't know what is," added the official.

According to informed sources, the bulk of the Arab media operating from outside the Arab World, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines and news agencies, is now owned and controlled directly or indirectly by the oil-rich Arab states.

"The irony is that media organisations are now being used to sling mud at other Arab states rather than in efforts to present the right image of the Arabs and convey the actualities in the Arab

World and of Arab causes to the Western world," said one source. Within the context of Jordanian-Arab relations, "they are not even giving us a chance to put the record straight," said the senior official and cited the vehement media attacks in Egypt and Saudi Arabia which greeted the release in August last year of the Jordanian "White Paper" explaining the Kingdom's reasons and positions adopted during the Gulf crisis.

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New cabinet in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Monday issued a decree endorsing a new cabinet formed by Prime Minister Mahmoud Za'bi that maintained the main posts but brought in some technocrats and a second woman, officials said. Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas, Interior Minister Mohammad Harba, Economy Minister Mohammad Imadi and Information Minister Mohammad Salman maintained their jobs in the 37-member cabinet. Mr. Za'bi submitted his resignation to Mr. Assad on Wednesday and asked him to form a new cabinet. Diplomats said the new cabinet formed in compliance with the constitution following the start of a new term by President Assad on March 13 would maintain the same policies as the outgoing one. They said the cabinet, including representatives of the coalition of parties grouped in the Baath-led national progressive front, would continue efforts by the outgoing cabinet to reform and liberalise the economy. The new ministers of oil, communications, industry, transportation and justice were engineers and university professors. Dr. Salha Sunkur took the higher education ministry and became the second member of the cabinet, alongside Najah Al-Attar who maintained her job as culture minister.

Afghan hopeful for peace

KABUL (R) — Kabul's war weary residents are waiting to see if Afghanistan's new president, Burhanuddin Rabbani can end the intermittent street fighting and looting that has engulfed the shell-shocked city in the past two months.

The city shuddered with celebratory gunfire as tracer rounds and illumination flares lit the sky on Sunday night after Mr. Rabbani's appointment was announced on television and radio.

The shooting came from guerrillas and militia troops, thousands of whom occupy the capital and look for any excuse to fire their weapons.

City residents were more restrained in their enthusiasm. "Rabbani is a strong man with a following," said Kabul resident Abdul Wakil, "but we don't know if he can bring order to Kabul."

Rebel forces captured the capital on April 25 in the climax to 14-years of civil war.

Professor Rabbani assumed office on Sunday as the second interim president of the country's fledgling Islamic government. He is an Islamic scholar and leader of Jamiat-e-Islami, arguably the most successful of the Afghan resistance factions.

Mr. Rabbani's predecessor, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, had a difficult two-months in office as heavily armed groups preyed on citizens and battled in the streets.

Many areas of Kabul were bustling on Monday morning, but most of the carpet and jewelry shops on Chicken street remained shuttered.

Fighting had erupted in the area twice last week as rival groups blasted one another with rockets and heavy machine guns in the city centre.

"There has been no shooting for a few days, but you can see the armed men stopping cars and searching for weapons," said Kandi, a carpet merchant, "they scare people away... there are no customers even for the shops that are open."

Asked whether he thought things would get better under Mr. Rabbani, Mr. Kandi hedged. "We don't know and we won't know for some time, but we are hopeful he can improve the situation," he said.

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Key questions unsolved in Iraq oil-sale talks — MEES

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq and the United Nations still need to resolve a number of key issues before Iraqi oil sales can resume, despite progress in expert-level talks in Vienna, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

A U.N. assistant secretary-general, Giandomenico Picco, said in the Austrian capital June 22 that "almost all the technical issues have been cleared up."

But the optimism conveyed by that statement has faded.

The Iraqi experts did not have the authority to approve the package on the spot and therefore had to return to Baghdad for further instructions, the economic newsletter pointed out.

The weekly newsletter, published in Cyprus, said a key stumbling block was that the United Nations was still refusing to allow Iraq export flexibility between its key Mina Al Bakr oil terminal in the Gulf and a northern pipeline that runs through Kurdistan and Turkey to the Mediterranean.

Diplomats at the United Nations told the Associated Press last week that the United States and its allies were willing to allow Iraq to transport some of its oil from Mina Al Bakr.

But in Vienna, the Iraqi team took a hardline stance and insisted that all — not just some — of its oil be exported through that southern terminal, MEES reported.

The Security Council has prohibited Iraq from exporting oil since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, but offered to allow the sale of \$1.6 billion worth of oil to pay for U.N. costs and a compensation fund for war victims and buy humanitarian needs.

A council resolution says Iraq should export the oil through the northern pipeline. But Iraq wants

to use Mina Al Bakr because it is more convenient for exports to Asia, a major customer, and less susceptible to Kurdish attacks.

In addition to the disagreement about the export route, MEES pointed out that it was "doubtful" whether the United States would give the go-ahead to any resumption of Iraqi oil exports before November's presidential elections.

In addition, Washington is unlikely to agree to oil sales before Baghdad accepts the recent demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border by U.N. experts, which so far it has balked at doing.

The Iraqi "Oil Establishment" is in favour of accepting the U.N. terms to resume oil exports, MEES wrote.

But the newsletter, which has good sources in the Middle East oil industry, said other policymakers in Baghdad argue that "since the country has done without oil sales so far, it can afford to wait longer in the hope of obtaining better terms."

These officials argue that in any case the funds generated by the exports would not be available to the Baghdad government, since they are slated to go into a U.N. escrow account.

Also, talks with the Kurds are deadlocked and the armed forces are fighting Shiite rebels in the south. The presence of U.N. observers in the country to monitor the oil sales and the distribution of humanitarian aid could "deprive Baghdad of its freedom of action to deal with both situations," MEES wrote.

Before the U.N. economic embargo, Iraq was producing about 3.3 million barrels of crude a day. Current production is about 450,000 barrels a day.

Kuwait to tighten border with Iraq

Kuwait said on Sunday it was considering a number of security measures to protect its border with Iraq after some reported intrusions.

Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah was quoted by the local press as saying security men exchanged fire with a group of smugglers in the demilitarised zone between the two countries on Saturday. He gave no further details.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dhari Abdullah Al Othman, as saying after a cabinet meeting on Sunday that the government was anxious to protect its border with Iraq.

He said the cabinet was still considering a number of security measures to strengthen the security of these borders.

He did not specify the measures, but said they would be applied after the demarcation of the border between the two countries.

A U.N. boundary commission entrusted with the demarcation of the border ruled that six Iraqi wells of the Rumailah oil field and part of the Um Qasr naval base were within Kuwaiti territory, a ruling that has angered Iraq.

Crown prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah paid a brief visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday and held talks with King Fahd.

Sheikh Saad said last week that Kuwait had put a brigade in charge of border security and had taken other steps to guard against intrusions.

Iraq on Saturday accused Kuwait of destroying farms in its border town of Safwan with the help of U.S. troops.

German president visits Somali boat people

HISWA, Yemen (R) — German President Richard von Weizsäcker visited Somali boat people in southern Yemen on Monday and said they urgently needed moving to a new site with proper facilities.

Some 3,700 refugees, passengers aboard two boats, have been camping for up to one week without latrines or easy access to fresh water.

The government, which agreed to one new site two days ago, has withdrawn permission for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to start building a camp there, U.N. sources said.

The UNHCR representative in Aden, Carlos Zaccagnini, told Mr. Von Weizsäcker that moving the refugees was his priority. "We have certain standards to adhere to — accessibility to water, perhaps electricity and an ability to expand," he added.

The governor of Aden, Mahmoud Al Arasi, whose government is trying to discourage Somali people from coming, intervened to say, "Why are they coming here. We have many neighbours. It is very difficult economically and socially."

Mr. Arasi later told reporters if any other refugee boats reached the water off Aden, the authorities would not turn them away.

"As soon as they are in the region, he shall welcome them and give them all the facilities we can," he said.

Mr. Von Weizsäcker, on a five-day state visit to Yemen, told reporters he endorsed the U.N. request to move the boat people.

"It seems the most urgent problem is to find a new site in accordance with the requirement of the UNHCR," he said.

"This is under urgent study and the governor said they would probably solve it within 24 hours."

He defended Yemen's reluctance to accept more refugees beyond the tens of thousands who have crossed the Gulf of Aden since civil war broke out in Somalia last year.

"It is clear that the Aden region is overloaded with refugees. This region cannot be open to an unknown number of additional refugees," Mr. Von Weizsäcker said.

Foreign relief workers in Aden say the Yemeni authorities, apart from trying to turn away refugees dying from hunger and thirst, have dragged their feet on making life easier for those that have landed.

Yemen says on the contrary United Nations and other international organisations have been slow to help the country cope with the influx.

Mr. Von Weizsäcker, who arrived from Tanzania on Saturday and leaves for Rome on Wednesday, said his talks with the central government in Sanaa showed Yemen had the right ideas about how to handle the crisis.

"To put these general guidelines into practice on the spot is of course more difficult. Principles are sound but are not sufficient in themselves," he added.

The refugees, though glad to be alive after their nightmarish hassles with the Yemenis, said their camp, on Hiswa beach 20 kilometres west of Aden, did not seem a good place to stay.

"It's like living in a garbage can," said Sidow Yaqub.

The refugee children, many with diarrhoea, have been excreting only metres away from the tents and the site is already littered with food wrappers, plastic bags and bottles.

MIDDLE EAST IN BRIEF

Egyptian official denies Israel trip political

TEL AVIV (R) — A senior Egyptian official denied on Monday he was in Israel to meet leaders of Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, victims in last week's general election. "My trip to Israel is not political in any way," Assistant Foreign Minister Fawzi Al Abrashi said. Mr. Abrashi, staying at a Tel Aviv hotel just across the road from Labour Party headquarters, said he was making an annual lecture tour which this year had brought him to the Tel Aviv University Law School. Before he left Cairo on Sunday Mr. Abrashi said he would meet "some Israeli personalities." He did not elaborate but the comment prompted speculation he would try to meet Mr. Rabin. Mr. Rabin's spokesman said he was unaware of any plans for talks. Mr. Rabin hopes to present his new government to parliament before July 13. Egypt said it hoped Mr. Rabin's win last Tuesday would push forward Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Oman-Yemen finalise border accord

ABU DHABI (AP) — Oman and Yemen have agreed to a draft border demarcation accord which will eliminate one of the territorial disputes that have riddled the region since colonial days, the newspaper Al Khaleej reported Sunday. "A final demarcation draft agreement has already been presented by Oman to Yemen and is expected to be endorsed during a visit to Yemen by Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'eed of Oman" in November, the Sharjah-based daily said. The paper said technical committees of the two countries have already completed placing field signs of the demarcation line. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said earlier this month that "the final demarcation agreement between the two brotherly countries will be finally sanctioned shortly." Yemen has also been trying, through diplomatic means, to end a border dispute to the north with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has warned oil companies operating in Yemen to stop explorations in the disputed area. But it denied that it has threatened retaliation, including military action, if its warning was not heeded. A border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq spurred the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Other disputes in the Gulf include one between the United Arab Emirates and Iran over three small islands occupied in the early 1970s. Bahrain is seeking a settlement to its territorial quarrel with Qatar through the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Three die in Turkish-Kurdish clashes

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Two village guards and a Kurdish guerrilla were killed in two clashes in Kurdish-dominated southern Turkey, the state-run Anatolia news agency said Sunday. Kurdish insurgents attacked the village of Nemalan in Diyarbakir province, killing two village guards and wounding another, the agency said. The government has armed a 30,000-strong militia of village guards to help combat the guerrillas. The guards have become the target of particularly ruthless attacks by the rebels. In another clash, security forces killed a rebel in the town of Ergani in Gaziantep province on Saturday when the guerrillas opened fire on troops on patrol, it added. Thirty-one Kurdish insurgents, 23 civilians and four soldiers have died in clashes over the past week. Kurdish guerrillas operating in the region are from the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for self-rule in the southeast since 1984. Over 4,100 people have died in clashes linked to the Kurds' fight. Kurds make up one-fifth of Turkey's population of nearly 60 million.

Bystander killed in Assiut shootout

CAIRO (AP) — A bystander was killed and two others injured in a shootout Sunday between police and extremists in southern Egypt, raising the death toll to 12 dead and 24 wounded in this month's spate of sectarian violence. This was the third death in two days resulting from clashes between police and militants in Assiut province, about 320 kilometres south of Cairo. Security sources said police arrested six extremists in Sunday's crackdown on a number of villages in the Dairut area 75 kilometres north of Assiut. A bystander, Abdul Moneim Selim, 70, was killed on the spot, and two others were injured in the crossfire. Security sources did not specify who was responsible for the killing. Casualties so far include Christians, Muslim militants and policemen. On Friday, police shot dead one Muslim extremist, and a second man drowned in the River Nile while attempting to flee. The recent clashes between security forces and militants grew out of a nationwide police alert ordered last month after Muslim extremists shot to death 13 Coptic Christians and one Muslim in Manshiet Nasser, 40 kilometres north of Assiut.

Cyprus fire causes damage, no casualties

NICOSIA (R) — An explosion and fire, apparently from a restaurant gas leak, destroyed four shops badly damaged an apartment block in the tourist district of the Cyprus port of Limassol early on Monday, police said. No one was hurt.

Iranian forces vow to crack down on opponents

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards and volunteer units pledged Sunday to stamp out opposition following large anti-government demonstrations which have shaken Iran's clerical government. The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said 110 battalions of the Basij, the volunteer wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, (IRGC), took part in manoeuvres that underscored their readiness to safeguard the "revolution and its achievements." Addressing the forces at Tehran's Shahid Shirdi stadium, Major General Mohsen Rezaie, commander of the IRGC, said the Basij forces were "ready to neutralise plots of Iran's domestic and foreign enemies," said IRNA. He blamed dire economic problems, which have sparked demonstrations and riots in several Iranian cities, on the United States and "other enemies of the revolution." Alireza Afshar, commander of the Basij, said 480 battalions had been created over the past year "to fight the enemies of the revolution." He said his forces were committed to the teachings of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic revolution, and would not "allow rascals and hoodlums to sow seeds of tension."

Iraq asks U.N. to condemn allies for burning its crops

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq has asked the U.N. Security Council to condemn the United States and Britain for allegedly using their warplanes to set fire to fields in northern Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Monday.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayer made the request in a letter to the council on Sunday. He also asked that Washington and London pay compensation for losses.

Iraq said earlier in the month that parachute flares dropped by U.S. and British warplanes wounded farmers in the north of the country, leaving them with severe burns. Baghdad said the flares set fire to thousands of tonnes of wheat and barley.

The United States denied Iraq's claim.

Iraq has been under strict U.N. sanctions since August 1990. It relies heavily on local farm produce, even though the embargo officially does not apply to food and medicine.

Allied warplanes routinely overfly Iraq on missions to check its compliance with U.N. ceasefire resolutions that Baghdad accepted after the Gulf war.

It was not clear why they would fly nighttime missions or use flares. Such missions have not been reported before.

An Iraqi newspaper said Monday U.S. planes were using chemicals to fire-bomb crops in northern Iraq.

"Low-flying U.S. planes spray with organic solvents consisting of carbon sulfate two (CS2)," the newspaper said.

Iraq accused Turkey on Monday of "political duplicity and blind adherence to Washington" for renewing the mandate of an allied air force based in southern Turkey.

"Turkey's positive response to U.S. demands to extend the mandate was humiliating," Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said in Iraq's first official response to the Turkish decision.

The Turkish parliament renewed the mandate of the allied "rapid reaction force" for six months on June 26, allowing U.S. and British warplanes to continue to use Incirlik base in Turkey to monitor Iraqi movements.

Al Thawra called the decision aggressive, saying its only aim was to "accelerate pressure on Iraq."

"Turkey blindly follows Washington's policy, even if it runs contrary to Turkish interests and relations with neighbours," the newspaper said.

U.N. says damage claims against Iraq total \$100b

GENEVA (AP) — Iraq may face compensation claims totalling \$100 billion for the suffering and damage it inflicted during the occupation of Kuwait, diplomats said Monday.

Alexis Reyn, who heads the U.N. body handling demands for compensation, said he expected to receive hundreds of thousands of claims this week alone. The starting date for processing requests is Wednesday.

"This is the biggest claim operation in history," Mr. Reyn told a news conference. "We are creating a precedent."

The U.N. compensation fund was set up 11 months ago to pay out damages to victims of Iraq's seven month occupation of Kuwait. Its governing body comprises representatives of the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Reyn is Belgium's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

However, the fund has no money because Iraq still has not agreed to a Security Council plan allowing it to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil. Some of the oil revenue would be used by the U.N. to pay out compensation.

Those eligible for compensation include foreign workers who had to flee Kuwait and lost everything; Kuwaitis and foreigners who suffered serious personal injury or death; and people who were tortured, raped or suffered other "mental anguish."

Individual claims for less than \$100,000 will get priority treatment. However if the U.N. does get money from Iraq, it is unlikely to start paying out before the middle of next year, Mr. Reyn said.

Corporations, governments and international organisations will also be eligible for compensation, but procedures are much lengthier and more complex, Mr. Reyn said. Governments who were part of the allied coalition force against Iraq will not be entitled to compensation for the cost of fighting the war.

Sarlis Alkamon, a Peruvian diplomat who is executive secretary of the fund, said total claims against Iraq may reach \$100 billion.

"But that's a very rough estimate," he said.

Mr. Reyn said the fund's governing body, which met for the sixth time last week, had now put into place the necessary machinery for handling the claims. He said even before the start-up date for processing, several thousand claims had been sent in by Kuwait, the United States and Russia.

Individuals send in the forms to their governments, which pass them on to local embassies in Geneva. The fund's secretariat will issue a report at least four times a year on the number and type of claims and the total compensation demanded.

The reports will be sent for comment to Iraq and governments that have submitted the claims. The comments will be then considered by separate panels who will make recommendations on how much should be paid out.

fused to confirm the Jordanian decision. Other officials were not immediately available for comment.

Since the sanctions were imposed, 13 nations have provided warships to carry out interception operations of ships heading for the Red Sea, the Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

More than 14,000 merchant ships have been intercepted, with hundreds diverted because they carried suspicious cargo.

Last major rebel base will fall soon, Sudan leader says

DAKAR (R) — Sudanese military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir has forecast that the last remaining major base of southern Sudanese rebels would fall within days.

But he said the Khartoum government was still committed to a negotiated settlement of the nine-year-old civil war, one of the longest of Africa's unresolved conflicts.

"As to when we are going to take Torit, it is a question of time. It may take a couple of days, but it will fall soon," Lieutenant-General Bashir told Reuters.

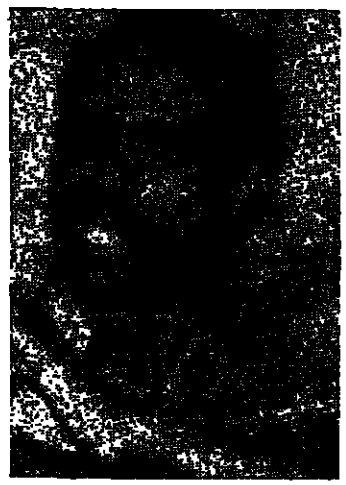
Torit, a small town near Sudan's border with Uganda, is the last remaining stronghold of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Front (SPLA), fighting what it sees as domination by the Muslim Arabised north of the mainly Christian and animist south.

Government forces now surround the town.

The SPLA, weakened by an internal split and the loss of crucial support from Ethiopia, fell back quickly in front of the army's biggest-ever offensive since the war began in 1983.

The government has since March taken 13 towns and villages from the SPLA in a campaign timed to coincide with the onset of the dry season. It has also relieved an SPLA siege of Juba, south Sudan's largest town.

SPLA commander John Garang is thought to be preparing a last stand, and hoping the



Omar Hassan Al Bashir

annual rains now arriving across the south would bog down government troops.

Gen. Bashir accused the SPLA of intransigence and said the reason why the war was still going on was because the rebels had spurned previous peace overtures.

"I would like to repeat that our goal is to achieve peace through a negotiated settlement," he said.

"The war is still under way because we could not reach a peaceful settlement of the rebellion."

However, he said, his Muslim fundamentalist-backed government remained optimistic that peace talks sponsored by Nigeria earlier this month would ultimately bear fruit.

"We are quite hopeful that the Nigerian efforts to mediate peace

will continue and ultimately succeed," he said.

Gen. Bashir was speaking in Dakar where he had arrived to participate in an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit.

He said his government would consider any solution to the conflict within the framework of a united Sudan, but ruled out secession or independence for the south.

"Any solution within the framework of a united Sudan is acceptable, but any system which leads to the fragmentation of Sudan is not," he said.

Not for the first time, Gen. Bashir — who seized power from an elected government in a 1989 coup — denied persistent reports that his forces had received Iranian military support.

"I would like to make it crystal-clear that there is not a single non-Sudanese fighting in south Sudan... no advisers either in the north or the south," he said.

He said he would oppose OAU moves to create an African peacekeeping force modelled on those of the United Nations.

"This is totally unacceptable. The OAU should emphasise that others should not intervene in the affairs of other African states," he said, adding outside help to the SPLA had unnecessarily prolonged his country's civil war.

"They would automatically die if other countries cut off support. The rebellion in Sudan could not have existed without Libyan and Ethiopian support," he said. That support has now ended.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Tortues Ninja
18:30	Marc et Sophie
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Aeropropolis Now
21:10	The Palace Guard
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "The Challenger"
PRAYER TIMES	
03:52	Fajr
05:27	(Sunrise) Duha
16:19	Dhuhr
19:50	'Asr
21:25	Maghrib
	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terremata Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiut International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bullent supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Agaba 36, Humidity readings:	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 14 / 27	
Agaba 23 / 36	
Desert 13 / 31	
Jordan Valley 21 / 34	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN: Dr. Salah Al 'Ussud 649028	
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shabla 724035	
Dr. Kayed Hakeya 793322	
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696048	
Fires pharmacy 661912	
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	
Al Adana pharmacy 637055	
Nairoukh pharmacy 624672	
Al Salan pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660	
BRID: Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)	
Al Sharas pharmacy (273823)	
ZARQA: Dr. Rabah Al Borial (—)	
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre 637111	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Civil Defence Immediate 630341	
Civil Defence Emergency 199	
Rescue Police 621111, 637177	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 775121	
Highway Police 843402	
Traffic Police 806590	
Public Security Department 63031	
Hotel Complaints 602800	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897467	
Complaints 897467	
Amman Municipality 787111	
Complaints 121	
Overseas Calls 010230	
Central Amman Telephone 63101	
Repairs 63101	
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101	
Jordan Television 774111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 680100	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81361322	
Kasbi Maternity, J. Amn 6426146	
Al-Bah Maternity, J. Amn 6424112	
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	
Malhas, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmeisat 6641714	
Shmeisat Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 843843	
Al-Musallam Hospital 6672279	
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737	
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646	
Khalil, Al-Muhajreen 7771013	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511226	
Army, Marja 89161115	
Queen Alla Hospital 60224050	
Amal Hospital 674135	
ZARQA: ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)983323	
ZARQA National Hospital (09)900560	
The Sun Hospital (09)985732	
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:00	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	Vienna (RJ)
12:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:25	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:55	London (RJ)
19:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30	London, Lahore (RJ)
22:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:00	Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
16:15	Agaba (RJ)
16:25	Moscow, Dubai (RJ)
16:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:25	London (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:30	Vienna (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:00	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	Vienna (RJ)
12:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:25	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:55	London (RJ)
19:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30	London, Lahore (RJ)
22:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:00	Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
16:15	Agaba (RJ)
16:25	Moscow, Dubai (RJ)
16:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:25	London (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:30	Vienna (RJ)

MARKET PRICES	
Upchopper price in Jls per kg.	
Apple (red)	100 / 60
Apricot	400 / 300
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal)	550 / 500
Beans	550 / 500
Cabbage	240 / 190
Carrot	240 / 200
Cauliflower	130 / 80
Couscous (large)	80 / 40
Couscous (small)	130 / 80
Eggplant	130 / 100
Garlic	240 / 190
Lebanese	600 / 500
Marrow (large)	80 / 40
Marrow (small)	120 / 60
Onion (dry)	140 / 80
Onion (green)	150 / 100
Oranges	200 / 150
Peas	200 / 150
Potatoes	330 /



Princess Sarvath delivers diplomas to future teachers graduating from Princess Sarvath Community College.

Princess congratulates new teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Princess Sarvath Community College is planning to train teachers to take charge of special education courses for handicapped children, college director Raghad Shreim announced Monday.

The project, which is to be implemented with the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Community College Organization, could help train badly needed teachers in special education at the primary stage. Such programmes would help children adjust to society, said Dr. Shreim at the graduation of 55 female students, who completed a three-year training course at the college.

The ceremony was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath at the Amman Chamber of Industry building in Amman.

The princess presented the graduates, the 11th batch so far to graduate from the college, with their diplomas, wishing them success in their careers.

Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General and relatives of graduates were among the invited guests at the ceremony.

Education ministry wai UNESCO to aid development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is seeking help from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to carry out its educational programmes for 1992-93; in a meeting in Amman on Monday, the two sides reached a tentative agreement.

Dr. Munther Al Masari, the ministry's secretary general, headed the Jordanian team at the talks with UNESCO, which has represented by Dr. Abdul Qader Al Atrash, from UNESCO regional office in Amman.

Discussions covered cooperation and coordination between the two sides in implementing the ministry's educational programmes.

The ministry team presented a detailed plan for its expansion programme as well as plans for its educational development process which is scheduled to be completed by 1998.

The two sides agreed that the ministry should present a

plan for the 13 school year, noting that need the funds UNESCO had to raise.

The two sides agreed to hold period meetings attended by lists and educators while implementing the ministry's programme.

Dr. Atrash outlined an outline of UNESCO's programmes for 1992 which cover, among others, the introduction educational programmes or environment in Arab tries.

A paper from UNESCO on Jordanian-UNESCO cooperation in education also reviewed.

The Ministry of Education is implementing a educational development plan that is based on recommendations and resolutions of the 1987 National Education Conference which was held by His Majesty King in. Under the plan, schoolbooks and curricula will be developed, schools built, teachers trained.

Hikmat and two German firms sign accord to boost Jordan's tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Monday signed two agreements with two German tourism firms to help promote Jordan in Europe in general and in Germany in particular.

Under the agreements signed by Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat, the European Community will finance consultancy and marketing campaigns carried out by the firms, mainly in Germany, said a statement following the ceremony at the Ministry.

Earlier this month the Council of Ministers endorsed a plan to conduct a promotional campaign to boost German tourism in the Kingdom. The decision was based on a report by a ministry technical committee which fore-

cast that at least 20,000 German tourists would come to Jordan in the first year of the campaign. Revenues from their stay and air transport were estimated to reach JD 24 million.

The committee did not say when the campaign will begin.

According to tourism officials then, the campaign will try to encourage Lufthansa, the German airline, to resume flights to Jordan now that the Gulf crisis is over and stability has returned to the region. The officials also noted Germany's high opinion of Jordan as a Tourist country, especially because of its treasure of archaeological and historical sites.

According to ministry studies,

each German tourist will spend more than one week at \$100 per day visiting the Kingdom, totalling \$14 million annually, if the tourists fly Royal Jordanian, they could earn the national airline \$10 million in revenues.

Following the end of the Gulf war, the Ministry of Tourism announced that it was launching campaigns in Europe to attract tourists.

According to the ministry's technical committee the campaigns, already launched in Italy, Spain and Britain have been a success and that the ministry was now turning its attention to Germany because of studies showing that by 1995 Germany would spend \$45 billion on tourism in 1995.

Lawzi urges China to play a bigger role in the Mideast peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Chinese delegation Monday met with the Speaker of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and voiced his country's call for the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to help establish peace in the Middle East.

The official, Liang Yen, told Ahmad Lawzi, speaker of the senate, that his country's position on the Middle East has not changed.

China, he said, respects the sovereignty of all other countries and refrains from interfering in other nation's internal affairs because it believes in peaceful co-

existence.

Mr. Yen said that China supports the Arab people in Palestine and calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab lands. China also backs the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. He said that his country wants an end to Israeli's repression of Palestinians and a halt to Jewish settlement programmes.

Furthermore, the Chinese official said the establishment of Chinese-Israeli relations does not mean that China approves of Israel's policies or the Palestinian people.

Mr. Lawzi however, urged Peking to play a more active role in the Middle East peace process,

noting that China is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Lawzi briefed the Chinese official on Jordan's parliament and expressed the Kingdom's appreciation of China's support for Arab causes.

Later, Mr. Yen, who is also deputy president of the Chinese-Jordanian Friendship Society, met with the Lower House Speaker Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat and briefed him on the society's activities and its aim of bolstering world peace and friendship.

Dr. Arabiyat stressed the need for Jordan and China to strengthen their economic and cultural relations.

Cave-ins inspire call for stricter building codes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Weaknesses in steel structures in Jordanian installations and ways of dealing with their threat of collapse, as happened to 80 structures last winter season, were the themes of a seminar organised at the Professional Association Complex in Amman by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA).

The day-long meeting was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. JEA President Hosni Abu Ghaida told the meeting that the time has come for the concerned authorities in Jordan to find means of preventing the repeated collapse of hangars and other steel structures by strictly adhering to and upgrading the building code and by measures designed to ensure safe structures in all weather conditions.

The 250 participants who took part in the meetings issued a statement at the end of their deliberations calling for the following:

- the establishment of a data bank to report cave-ins and the collapse of steel structures in order to study their causes,
- the preparation of a "detailing manual" offering assistance to the engineers involved with building various stone or steel structures;
- a detailed revision of the national building code in order to

upgrade its provisions, taking into account the shape of the 80 steel structures last winter's snow storm.

— the creation of a special society of pe involved in dealing with iron steel used in structures to harmonize regulations on construction;

— further effort to be made to ensure quality roll of all types of iron used for construction in Jordan, since tourist imports iron from various sources and countries;

— the creation of a follow-up committee to that these recommendations resolutions are implemented

In his address the meeting, the JEA president said that the buildings that collapsed are a source of concern to the public and the time has come for all concerned parties to take appropriate measures to deal with the situation.

Mutah University to expand and buy new lab equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mutah University in southern Jordan on Monday approved plans, for expansion, buying new equipment and other requirements needed to develop its civilian and military operations and programmes.

The Royal Commission for Mutah University, near Karak, approved the plans at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the commission's chairman.

The Royal Commission listened to a report submitted by university president Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhat, who said that, there were plans to build a complex of lecture halls and to buy heavy machinery and equipment for laboratories.

The university president also presented the commission a decision by the council of deans to open new departments at the Faculty of Engineering in the civilian wing for the coming academic year. The council also wants to amend statutes concerning setting loans given to staff members.

The commission has approved these plans and arrangements will soon be made to implement them, according to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported on the meeting.

Petra said that the prime minister paid tribute to the late Khalil

Al Salem who served as a commission member since Mutah University was established. Dr. Salem passed away this month.

Last month, Mutah University, which has four faculties and offers training through its military and civilian wings, announced that it was opening a fifth faculty and has prepared programmes for other expansions.

The new addition, it said, will be a faculty for agriculture, in addition to a geology department affiliated with the science faculty. The university's military wing trains officers to serve in the Jordanian armed forces and the Public Security Department (PSD).

Serving on the commission with the prime minister are: Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thouran Al Hindawi, Deputy Premier and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, Yarmouk University President Ali Mahafzah, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, Public Security Department Director Major General Fadel Ali, and Dr. Bakhat.

Earlier this month, the university graduated its third batch of students from the civilian wing and the fifth batch from its military wing.

Role of media in Arab World to be discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Editors, radio and television corporations, and national news agencies of countries in the Mediterranean region, including Jordan, headed for Rome Monday to participate in an international symposium on the media's role in the region.

Editors of the Jordanian dailies and the director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ali Safadi, are among the groups attending the two-day symposium, which will discuss issues related to media, official information services, and information problems in Arab countries and their impact on the political and social life of the Arab World.

Mr. Safadi said he was presenting a paper on "cooperation among news agencies in the Mediterranean zone which calls for the exchange of news and other material among Arab and European news agencies."

The paper also proposed establishing a news pool at an Arab news agency and expanding the direct communication network.

Maritime Co. makes profit

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Company concluded its meetings Monday, which were held at the Ministry of Transport under board chairman Othman Labbadi, in the presence of ministry secretary-general Awad Al Tal.

The board discussed the annual report which reviewed the condition of investments in maritime transport in 1991. The report stated that maritime transport during 1991 regained its balance and stability following the instability in the second half of 1990

when Iraq invaded Kuwait. It said that in 1991 maritime trade exchange from and to the Middle East region resumed to normal.

The report added that the sea route of the company that operates between the ports of northwestern Europe and the Syrian shoreline had a flare of activity, reflected in the company's profits of 45 million Syrian liras.

The board of directors also studied the closing account for 1991.

The board also discussed investment in maritime transport during the first half of 1992.

Announcement from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Water Authority of Jordan Invitation For Bids

Date: 29/06/1992
Loan No.: 3306 JO
IFB No.: 35/91/JET

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank and 4 grants from Canada, Luxembourg, Sweden and Switzerland in various currencies towards the cost of the Emergency Recovery Project "ERP" and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of Jet Guilleys for ERP.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Jet Guilleys.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the tender documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 JO. Fax 679143.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and against the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 150.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of JD 27,500, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on 28/07/1992.
6. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on 28/07/1992 at the Head Office of the Water Authority at the above address.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad visits Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, visited Irbid city Monday. Prince Mohammad first called at Irbid governorate where he was briefed by Irbid governor Fayez Al Abbadi on the services the governorate provides and its comprehensive development plan. Prince Mohammad also visited Irbid municipality where he met with the chairman and members of the municipal council and heads of the city's government departments. Irbid Mayor Sami Isheidat briefed Prince Mohammad on the municipality's work plans and financial conditions.

Ensur discusses trade with Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour met Monday with the Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him trade and economic relations between the two countries. The two also discussed issues listed on the agenda of the joint Jordanian-Lebanese committee which will meet in the second half of July.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD INVITATION TO TENDER

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 28F/92 (for the drilling, construction of production water wells and observation boreholes in Eshidya area).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, supply department until Tuesday, July 28, 1992.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 150 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission of tenders is 2.00 p.m. local time August 8, 1992.

Thabet Taher
General Manager

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Editor-in-Chief:
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Men of courage come to the fore!

YESTERDAY's assassination of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf is a cowardly and repugnant act that deserves the strongest condemnation. Boudiaf, a national hero of independence who spent 27 years of his life in exile, is certainly not the man to blame for Algeria's multiple ills. The elderly revolutionary has spent all his years in exile opposing the one party rule of the National Liberation Front (FLN).

The FLN, which ruled Algeria for three decades, blundered that North African country's resources and plunged it into political and economic turmoil. When Chadli Benjedid failed to ensure a smooth transition from the one party rule to multi-party democracy, Boudiaf responded to the call of the Algerian military and returned home to help get the country out of the quagmire into which it has sunk. Boudiaf presided over the state council of presidency only after the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which was headed to win Algeria's first multi-party elections, threatened to scrap democracy and pluralism and replace it with another one-party rule. That infuriated many Algerians, including Boudiaf himself.

When the conflict between the Algerian authorities and the FIS widened early this year, Boudiaf made many gestures towards the FIS, despite a constant push from the military faction in the presidency council to crack down on the Islamists. Neither the Islamists nor the military have given Boudiaf the chance to continue his reconciliatory moves.

Now that Boudiaf is out of the way, the stage is set for a bloody clash between the Islamists and the military. Every sensible and sincere Arab and Muslim had hoped that the Algerian crisis would not have deteriorated to the point of senseless killings and assassinations.

We do not know where all of this is going to lead that Arab country. The person of Boudiaf was a symbol of hope for national reconciliation. Now that he is removed, we can only hope that both sides to the internal fighting in Algeria will pause for a moment and reflect on how to proceed towards peace before reacting to Monday's regrettable murder.

The blood of Boudiaf and those killed or injured Monday and in the last year must not be used as an alibi for more fighting and killing. The country is fast sinking into the abyss and what it urgently needs are men of courage and wisdom who should come to the fore to lead it out of that dismal destiny.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL Ra'i Arabic daily Monday paid tribute to French President Francois Mitterrand for making a daring relief mission to Sarajevo in a bid to defuse the tension and to end the conflict in Yugoslavia. It said that only a great personality like Mitterrand can dare to take such a humanitarian trip and only a very responsible personality offers this sacrifice in the hope of saving people whose lives are endangered and innocent civilians cut off by the conflict. The world community has applauded such step because it was meant to alleviate the sufferings of the innocent civilians and defenceless population, the paper noted. But in the midst of our rejoicing over Mitterrand's daring mission, our hearts yearned for a similar mission by the French president to Baghdad which is also under siege and its innocent civilians are defenceless and starving, the paper stressed. It said that it would have liked to see the French leader taking a walk among the suffering population of Iraq as he did in Sarajevo, and then all the people of the world would applaud this courageous move. No one around the world would doubt the president's good intentions and no country would say that Mitterrand was working against world legality because he would be carrying out a humanitarian mission, the paper argued. It said that the Gulf war was not only directed against Arab-European relations and in particular against the French-Arab ties which were built over long years. It said that the Arabs would have liked to see Mitterrand visiting the besieged millions of Iraq as he did when he visited the thousands of civilians in Sarajevo and the visit would be quite legitimate as it is humanitarian aiming to save the lives of innocent people.

Now that Yitzhak Rabin has won the Israeli elections, the peace process with the Arab countries has a better chance, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily in an editorial Monday. The paper said that the U.S. and world media have all welcomed Rabin's victory, and the U.S. State Department in particular has embarked on new activities within the framework of the peace process with the purpose of ending the deadlock created by the Likud government's intransigence. It is true that Rabin and the Labour Party have announced their flexibility about the settlements question and the autonomy rule for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip, but what the Arabs expect from the new Israeli leader is to openly announce Israel's full readiness to pull out Israeli forces from the occupied Arab lands and to comply with the requirements of the international legitimacy, said the paper. It said that Rabin should now declare openly that the Jewish state accepts the principle of land for peace, and unless he did, he would be placing more obstacles in the path of peace like his predecessor did. Rabin should realise, said the paper, that the whole Middle East peace process and the Arab-Israeli peace talks depend on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and the international legitimacy which provide for the establishment of a lasting peace.

The View from Fourth Circle

The triumph of freedom over fear

THE VICTORY of the Labour Party in the Israeli election and the imminent formation of a Labour-led coalition government nearly completes the sequence of political developments that now provides the best opportunity in the last century to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through negotiations that respect the rights of all concerned parties. The Labour victory will not before extremists and ideologues on both sides make an attempt to sabotage the process. Such an attempt will be a hardening of positions on both sides. But in the majority commitment to a fair, negotiated peace accord triumph. This is not merely the consequence of contemporary political logistics — it is the inevitable verdict of history.

The most important message from the Israeli elections is the demise of the Likud philosophy that saw all of Israel as the God-given land of Israel, with Israel maintaining the right to colonise Palestine and hold its indigenous Arab population in a state of perpetual captivity and subjugation. An attitude stems from a political ideology — predatory expansionist Zionism — whose time has nearly finished. The other ideologies that were born or peaked in the period 1900-1940 — notably colonialism, imperialism, nazism, fascism and communism — Zionism entered the 1990s as a lame and dated relic of a bygone era.

In the last several years, since the collapse of communism, the end of the cold war, and the push to resolve regional conflicts on the basis of U.N. resolutions and globally recognised principles of self-determination and human rights, Israel has had more and more like the world's odd-man-out. Just as the Palestinians and other Arabs recognised in the last two decades that Israel would not disappear and that we would have to come to terms with it, so have the Israeli people finally accepted that perpetuation of Palestinian land and people is not a violation to the conflict of the past century.

The Labour victory will not necessarily result in a quick and dramatic peace accord with the Palestinians and Arabs. But it will set in motion a new political dynamic that will slowly contain the hardline Likud-style extremism and isolate the extremists as an emasculated remnant of the half of this century. The historical writing is finally on the wall: the future of Palestine lies in a gradual disengagement between forces of Palestinian nationalism and Zionism. This has been brought about by the Palestinian acceptance of a Palestinian interim self-governing authority that will allow the seed of Palestinian

self-government to be planted in the soil of Palestine. In time, this will inevitably lead to Palestinian self-determination, and then to some form of Palestinian sovereignty in logical association with Jordan.

The Israelis will focus on the issue of security for Israel, more or less in Israel's pre-1967 borders, and this poses no real problems for the Palestinians. The fact of Israeli statehood is already clearly accepted by the Palestinians and other Arabs — that was the historic meaning of the Arab participation in the Madrid peace talks last year. The crucial criterion of the next phase of the peace talks will be to elicit from the Israelis a parallel recognition that in return for their security they will have to accept the reality of Palestinian national identity.

The new Israeli government has already accepted the implicit but important distinction between "political" settlements and "security" settlements. Though the Arab view sees all settlements as illegal, and a manifestation of Israeli territorial aggrandisement, it is important now to push for the continued Israeli appreciation of the need to stop the settlement process. Once some settlement activity is halted the whole historical impetus for Zionist colonisation of Palestine will gradually wither away. Like most aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, this crucial change will not happen quickly or dramatically. Rather, it will be a gradual, incremental process — mirroring the gradual, incremental manner in which Palestinians and other Arabs came to terms with the reality of Israel in the period 1967-1991, from the 1967 War to the Fes Summit declaration and finally to the 1991 Madrid peace talks.

The hallmark of the next phase of negotiations should continue the tactics that have brought us to this pivotal moment: patience, realism, compromise, and persistence in demanding implementation of relevant U.N. resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and General Assembly Resolutions 181 and 194. The overwhelming international consensus today demands that Israel withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967, and accept the Palestinian right of national self-determination. Confronted with the requirements of Resolution 194 for compensation or repatriation for Palestinian refugees, the United States itself recently declared that it accepts the continued validity of that resolution. It remains now for the negotiators to define the mechanisms to implement this and other key resolutions.

If the primary Israeli consideration is the security of the state of Israel, this will not be objectionable to the Arab side. The Arab quid pro quo is that in return for its security, Israel must accept the reality of territorial disengagement from occupied Palestinian

lands, and Palestinian self-government. For the first time since the start of Zionist colonisation of Palestine in the 1890s, we have Israeli and Palestinian incumbent political leadership that agree on the broad outlines of these principles. We also have a clear international consensus for this goal, a set of U.N. resolutions that provides appropriate legal and political guidelines, and a credible negotiating mechanism that is accepted by the principal Arab and Israeli parties. Furthermore, the principal international mediator — the United States — is actively committed to the process, and all sides are working within a time frame that seeks to achieve a Palestinian interim self-governing authority by November of this year. Never in the last century have all of these elements for peace and justice come together as clearly as they do today.

The challenge of the moment is to harness the political will and the negotiating composure to keep the process moving forward. The Israeli people have finally given their government a formal mandate to do precisely this, probably because they realised — as we did in recent years — that the cycle of militarism and maximalism that defined the last several decades is a dead end road.

We should not be deterred or sidetracked by the expressions of extremism that will inevitably mar the movement towards peace and justice. Israeli settlers will do their best to torpedo the negotiations, including the use of force. Arab maximalists will do the same. Neither represents the majority of their people. The majorities on both sides must recognise the historical nature of the process now underway — a slow, painstaking process that will require incremental advances that provide both sides the crucial opportunity to shift from military confrontation and ideological battle to political détente, communal coexistence, and national reconciliation.

Making peace will require the same fortitude and passion that both sides have demonstrated in waging war. Such passion and fortitude are deeply embedded in the national psyches and historical experiences of both sides. This is the moment to draw on those powerful forces, and to give renewed vigour to the humanitarian that still defines both Arabs and Israelis. It can be done, because the will to live in freedom is still stronger than the penchant to submit to the forces of fear, narrow communalism, and petty, truncated nationalism that have driven the people of this region for the past century.

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Edging towards peace?

The following are the two platforms of both the Likud Party that won last week's elections in Israel and the Democratic Israeli Party, expected to be the main partner in a coalition government, led by Labour.

The Israel Labour Party (Labour)

I. Party Chairman and Candidate for Prime Minister: Yitzhak Rabin.

II. Party Platform:

Security/Foreign Affairs:

- ★ In favour of immediate talks with the Palestinians on the autonomy plan as an interim solution. Talks will be held with Palestinians from the territories, including from East Jerusalem, but not directly with the PLO. The permanent settlement with the Palestinians and the various Arab states will be worked out in bilateral talks. Regional problems can be dealt with in an international conference.
- ★ Jerusalem is to remain united, under Israeli sovereignty, as the capital of Israel.
- ★ A permanent solution will be based on territorial compromise. There will be no return to the 1967 borders, but Israel will be willing to give up, in return for peace, those territories which have a dense Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Territorial compromise is also possible on the Golan Heights. Territories from which Israel will withdraw will be demilitarised.
- ★ There will be no additional state between Israel and the Jordan River (no Palestinian mini-state). Labour favours the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian political entity, whose constitutional structure will be determined by the Jordanians and Palestinians themselves.
- ★ The special relationship with the United States is invaluable. Israel should not accept American dictates on issues involving its vital interests. Differences of opinion should be ironed out by means of talks, and every effort should be made to avoid situations of loss of confidence.

Government and Electoral Reform:

- ★ Strongly supported the law for the direct election of the prime minister.
- ★ Favours raising the qualifying threshold to 2.5 per cent.
- ★ Supports electoral reform under which half the Knesset Ministers (MKs) will be elected in multi-member constituencies and the other half by proportional representation.
- ★ Aspires to conclude the drafting of a constitution.

Social and Economic Policy:

- ★ Aspires to a society based on social justice and equal opportunities.
- ★ A good economic policy must be based on a mixture of private initiative and government direction. The government must also be responsible for infrastructure. There should be privatisation of

government-owned enterprises, though the government should maintain a controlling interest in enterprises dealing with raw materials and heavy production.

★ The Histadrut vital tool in the realisation of the desired goals, and must keep up with the times in terms of structure and modus operandi.

Immigrant absorption:

- ★ The successful absorption of the new immigrants is a top priority goal.
- ★ The absorption of new immigrants cannot be exclusively to market forces. Government must be directly involved in housing, social absorption, and job creation.
- ★ The successful absorption of the immigrants requires massive investment in infrastructure, industrial development and services. This task can only be achieved if all those financial means are utilised inside Israel, from the Jewish and from the international community.

Religion and State:

- ★ Advocates the separation of religion and politics.
- ★ The relationship between religion and state must be defined in a constitution.
- ★ There should be no religious and no anti-religious coercion.
- ★ The mass extension of yeshiva (religious) studies from military service, and religious girls from national service, must end.
- ★ There should be change in the definition of Jew as it currently appears in the Law of Return.

Meretz — Democratic Israel Party (Ratz) — Shinui — Mapam

I. Party Leader: Shimon Peres

II. Party Platform:

Security/Foreign Affairs:

- ★ Israel's dream of peace is possible today. The final and lasting peace agreement — based on U.N. Resolution 242 (peace for territories) — must be preceded by interim agreements which will gradually prove the stability of the final agreement. The immediate goal is full autonomy for the Palestinians in the territories.
- ★ Jewish settlement in the territories and the Golan Heights is presently the greatest obstacle to both the final settlement and interim agreements. Continued settlements endanger the current peace negotiations.
- ★ No solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is possible without a compromise with the Palestinians, based on mutual recognition of the right to self-determination of both peoples. The Palestinian people will determine its own future (whether federation or confederation with Jordan, or an independent Palestinian state) and Israel will honor that determination. Peace treaties between Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan shall include security arrangements which guarantee Israel's security. Security and demographic considerations dictate the preference for a confederate solution.
- ★ Israel will agree to PLO participation in the political process if it recognises Israel and ends terrorism. To advance the peace process the Palestinians must publicly renounce their "right of return" and the "Phased Plan."
- ★ Jerusalem, Israel's capital, will never again be divided. Its special national and religious links will be taken into consideration in determining its final status.
- ★ The IDF is the army of the entire people and the government may not involve it in any war which is not defensive, or exploit it for personal or political gain.
- ★ Until a peace treaty is reached, Israel must carry out its administration of the territories based on the rule of law, just rules of conduct and international law. Violence in any form must be opposed — both the number of Jews and Palestinians by Palestinians and the vigilante activity of

Government and Electoral Reform:

- ★ All are equal before the law — no person shall be discriminated against because of origin, religion, sex, political outlook or sexual preference.
- ★ The right of equal opportunity for all of Israel's citizens is a precondition for an organised and

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LETTERS

U.S., Israeli love affair continues

To the Editor:

IN the past few years we have witnessed a change in the open love affair between the U.S. and Israel. Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have recently gone on record criticising Israel for its not-so-nice attitude towards the American endeavours in the Middle East. The first impulse of those watching is to applaud the U.S. for finally doing the right thing. However, a deeper analysis of the situation will show that not much has changed. The love affair continues but in secret. The question at this point becomes what is the reason for this change in tactics? Why has Israel become the United States' secret lover after years and years of an overt relationship. The U.S. for years has openly funded Israel in billions of dollars every year. In 1982 the General Accounting Office informed Congress that the actual level of U.S. aid to Israel may be 60 per cent higher than publicly available figures. On average aid to Israel amounted to \$1,000 per year for every citizen of Israel. The U.S. is aware that this aid has been and is still being used to build illegal settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, to obtain weapons at bargain rates to attack civilian targets in Lebanon, and to buy shrapnel and cluster bombs such as the ones used during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to get the maximum kill per hit. All this was done with the blessing of the United States and was justified as being in the long term interest of the U.S.

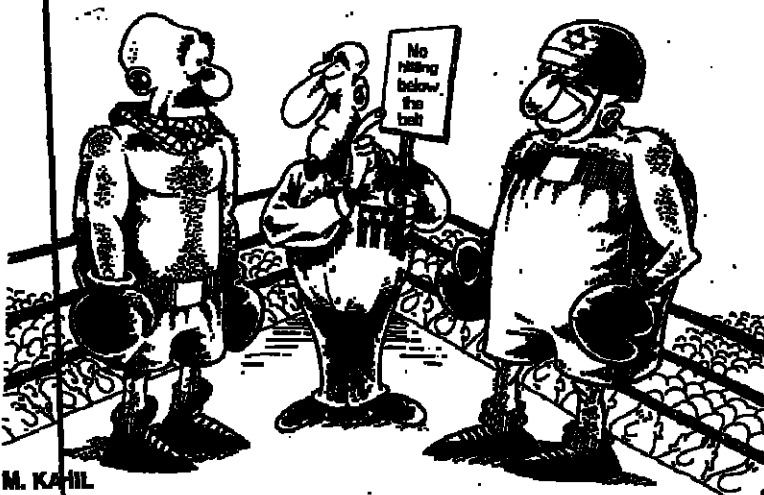
After the fall of the Soviet Union the United States is no longer able to justify this relationship as a necessity to maintain the Soviet long term interests in the region and to contain the communist threat. The drastic changes that have occurred after the fall of the Soviet Union and the Gulf war have created a new reality. This reality dictates a new public image which portrays the U.S. as a responsible nation and a true leader of the "new world order."

However, to date, the U.S. has only paid lip service to the principles of this new order in order to appear as worthy of such a role. The Middle East peace process is the clearest example of this blatant hypocrisy. The U.S. administration has shown public annoyance with Israel for its continued intransigence and disregard for international legality. However, the fact remains that Israel continues its actions with the knowledge and support of the U.S. Settlements are still being built with U.S. taxpayer money, weapons used to kill Palestinian demonstrators are still provided by the U.S. Attacks on Lebanon are still being carried by Israel without U.S. condemnation, and Israel remains unbending with regards to the U.S.-sponsored peace process. It is not enough to pay lip service to the requirements of international legality. Complaints and accusations even if said in seriousness remain hypocritical as long as material, ideological, and diplomatic assistance is provided to Israel. As of yet there is little reason that any Israeli government will pay any attention to angry whispers emanating from the White House. Those truly interested in peace must not only pay lip service to the principles of peace but must do what it takes to ensure it. To quote from a Sep. 1982 issue of Economist "Holding up a supply of shiny new weapons is America's traditional slap on Israel's wrist."

"But an embargo is ineffective unless it is certain to last ... Much more effective would be the belief in Israel that this time an American president will stick with his policy, including if need be a lasting embargo on arms and a rethink of the extent of America's aid."

Dr. Akia Dabbas,
P.O. Box 1027,
ADC Regional Office.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



M. KAHIL

Just in time

The race to save Lake Aral and its people

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan both rode the shores of Lake Aral, once one of the world's four largest inland seas. Down the centuries, millions of people made their living from its waters, an oasis in the arid steppes of central Asia.

But these days, the Aral's name is known for a different reason. Scientists cite it as one of the world's worst ecological black spots, a symbol of the danger of messing with nature. The Aral Sea is dying, and so are its people who are falling victim to chemical pollution. In just 30 years, this once majestic lake in the heart of the Soviet Union has lost two-thirds of its volume. Its level has dropped 15 metres and continues to fall at a rate of 30 centimetres each year. Vast tracts have been reduced to desert flats and salt marshes. The rusting hulks of its once proud fishing fleet lie marooned on the dried-up lake bed.

For years foreign experts were prohibited from visiting the area. The Soviet Union tried to hide the disaster, but the causes were all too evident — a badly calculated decision to sacrifice environmental concerns for a more pressing need, feeding the Soviet people and making the desert-like central Republic region bloom. The plan involved diverting water from two rivers — the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya — to irrigate new crops in the traditionally arid zones of Turkmenia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, thus realising a dream to make the Soviet Union become self-sufficient in cotton production.

One part of the dream came true. Central planning quotas

were fulfilled and crops of melons, rice, grain and above all cotton flourished. But the price was high and, like Frankenstein, this man-made monster turned on its creators. Just like Chernobyl, Lake Aral became a national shame. Since Gorbachev and "glasnost," the shroud of secrecy has been lifted.

The Soviet people have been made aware of the problem and a few foreign scientists have been allowed in to view the dying lake. "They seemed very aware of the issue when I was in the Soviet Union," said Dr. Ferruccio Gera, an Italian geologist who has made a study of the ecological disaster. "Everyone was talking about Lake Aral."

But important though public awareness may be, it is next to useless in a nation currently wracked by enormous economic difficulties. "They just don't have the money (to deal with it)," said Dr. Gera, who works for ISMES, an Italian firm that specialises in environmental projects.

The picture looks bleak and time is running out, say experts. If nothing is done by the year 2000 the sea will have divided into two far smaller lakes, less than one-tenth the size of Lake Aral in 1960. Eventually, the inland water will be reduced to a small lifeless brine lake. "It will be a second Dead Sea," said Dr. Gera. Already, the main town of Aral, once nestled on the lake-side, is 100 kilometres from the shore. At ISMES, the Italian team has a plan it hopes might help the population and save the lake that was until 25 years ago the fourth largest expanse of inland water in the world — after the Caspian Sea, Lake Superior and Lake Victoria. The plan would

involve enlisting the help of agricultural experts from the Middle East who would design plans for planting crops fitted to an arid environment.

ISMES wants to approach the European Community (EC) with a joint project, working together with the Aral Ecology Centre in the town of Nukus, Uzbekistan. "The EC has a 400 million ECU (\$500 million) fund set aside for technical assistance to the Soviet Union, so some of this could be used to carry out environmental studies on the lake," said Dr. Gera, who recently met with representatives from the Central Asian republics to discuss Lake Aral. "The Soviets clearly do not have the money, so the cost must be met by international organisations. It's too important a problem to ignore."

The most pressing need, says the Italian geologist, is to carry out an exhaustive study of the area, which would cost about \$6.5 million. "Much of the Soviet-collected data is out of date and has not been adequately interpreted," said Dr. Gera. "Even the causes of illness in the people living near the lake have not been precisely documented."

At Mynak, one of the main towns, hospital staff say they have few statistics, but their own experience has shown an alarming increase in liver and especially throat cancer over the past two decades. Some health officials now estimate cancer to be the cause of 78 out of every 100 deaths in the area. Infant mortality is the highest anywhere in the Soviet Union, with an estimated 60 deaths per 1,000 children below the age of five in the area around Nukus.

In the babies that do survive, anaemia and rickets are almost the norm rather than the exception, say doctors. The water supply has been drastically reduced and is severely polluted with pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, from the intensive cultivation. Doctors say this pollution is responsible for sharp upturn in cases of intestinal problems, especially among children. A substantial increase in eye and respiratory diseases is believed to be caused by the dried up pesticides and toxic salts which cover the former lake-bed in a layer of lethal silt that is constantly being released into the atmosphere by dust storms and toxic rain. "The salts are picked up by the high winds that are frequent in that region and deposited on farmland," said Dr. Gera. "People then eat produce which has been contaminated, and breathe it in the air. The mothers have a very high level of pesticides and other chemicals in the breast milk which they feed their children."

In all, a total of 35 million people are believed to have been affected by the death-throes of the Aral Sea. The toxic salt storms have caused damage hundreds of kilometres from the lake itself, burning vegetation and affecting livestock. Soviet scientists report that traces of Aral salt have been found 1,000 kilometres southeast in the fertile Fergana Valley, as well as in Georgia, on the shores of the Black Sea and even on the Arctic coast.

Cattle and sheep flocks have been decimated, while the hunting and trapping of animals that once included a plentiful supply of wild boar, deer and muskrats has all but stopped. Only 38 of the known 173 species survive,

The fishing industry, formerly the mainstay of the local economy, has been wiped out. In 1957, the catch from Lake Aral was 48,000 metric tonnes. This year it was zero. Mynak, now 30 kilometres from the lakeshore, had 10,000 fishermen 25 years ago. Now, even if the fleet could go out, there would be nothing to catch. The high concentrations of salinity have killed off five-sixths of the fish species. "The lake is virtually lifeless," said Dr. Gera.

Already, at least 60,000 people have lost their jobs. In a desperate attempt to keep two of the once ubiquitous fish canneries in business, the Soviet authorities are supplying factories in Aral and Mynak with fish caught in huge distances away, in places such as Vladivostok and Murmansk on the Barents Sea. The catches are trucked in each week on refrigerated trains. "It's an economic disaster," said Dr. Gera. "The fishing industry is finished, but more than that, the impact has been felt by millions of people because such a vast area is affected."

Even the climate has changed. The inland sea's temperate influence has been lost and summers are now fiercer, winters harsher and the growing season has shortened. The people hardest hit are the ones living closest to the lake. But ironically, the farmers who stood to benefit from the massive

irrigation programme have seen the quality and quantity of their crops suffer because of the levels of pollution in the water and the damage wrought by the salt storms.

"It's a vicious circle," said Dr. Gera. "The build-up of salt in the soil decreases fertility and in order to maintain production, the farmers need more fertilisers and more irrigation... These days everyone is talking about sustainable development. Well Lake Aral is a very good example of non-sustainable development."

In spite of the damage done by the farming, most scientists agree it would be out of the question to sacrifice the region's agriculture in order to save Lake Aral. Ninety per cent of the area's harvests comes from land irrigated by the two rivers that once fed the lake. "Cotton is the main cash crop and has become vital to the economy of the region," said Dr. Gera. "Reducing agricultural activity would be practically impossible."

The region, populated mainly by Muslims, is already one of the poorest in the Soviet Union and has the highest growth rate. In 20 years, the population will have almost doubled to 60 million, making food and cotton production more imperative than ever.

For the same reason, most experts say that restoring Lake Aral to its former size is an impossible dream. Merely to stabilise the

water level would require an annual injection of 30-35 cubic kilometres of water from the rivers Amy Darya and Syr Darya and the toll taken on agriculture would be too great to contemplate.

One Soviet proposal would involve an elaborate scheme to divert water from the Ob and Irtysh rivers which flow into the Arctic Ocean, 2,500 kilometres north in Siberia. But Western ecologists have warned it could cause even more ecological damage. "If you reduce the flow of warm river water from the Arctic area, it could lead to an increase in icing there," noted Dr. Gera. The plan favoured by ISMES and the Aral Ecology Centre would attempt to make the best of a bad situation. "I really don't think it would be possible to restore the lake to its original condition," said Dr. Gera.

"What could be done would be to mitigate the disaster by stopping a further decrease in water loss and then trying to manage the environment the way it is, in order to minimize the undesirable consequences."

In concrete terms, that would involve finding an extra 15 cubic kilometres water per year, most of which could be recovered by improving inefficient irrigation techniques. The next phase would be to call in arid land experts to redesign the agricultu-

ral strategy. The lake bed already left exposed and the area around it would be planted with vegetation that is resistant to high levels of salinity, thereby preventing further erosion and the dust-bowl effect of dangerous salts.

Some scientists have compared the Aral Sea to Egypt's Lake Nasser. In that scheme, a giant dam was built on the River Nile to produce electrical power. But the side-effects proved highly damaging to the environment. Farmers were forced to resort to heavy use of fertilisers when water failed to flood the fields bordering the Nile, as it had done for centuries. Fishermen were faced with a fall in their catches in the sea round the Nile delta, as the lake robbed the river of valuable minerals and nutrients which nourished the marine life in the Mediterranean.

But, according to Dr. Gera, even more worrying parallel is to be drawn between Lake Aral and Lake Chad, which is also shrinking dramatically as water is diverted for irrigation. It's a similar situation. Lake Lake Aral, Lake Chad depends on a very fine balance between evaporation and inflow and it too is shrinking rapidly," he said. "The population there is also very poor and relies on agriculture for its survival. If you stop the irrigation, the people will die. It's a terrible dilemma" — World News Link.

Jordan keeps its door open

(Continued from page 1)

terms of lives and material resources...

Jordan and Jordanians are trying their best to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people to survive against the odds and will continue to do so regardless of who is in power in Baghdad, he added.

"The people in the region will

remain long after the contemporary leaderships in the region are gone," said the official. "And it is people who matter."

Alluding to charges that Jordan was a "co-conspirator" in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that explained the Kingdom's rejection of a military option against Iraq, the official said:

"We were not that naive to believe that the party which actually suffered the conse-

quences of the Gulf war could have come out the victor (against) the 'great coalition' with great resources."

And if, even hypothetically, Jordan was indeed a party to the invasion, then "we'd have done a far better job," the official added.

The Gulf Arab states seem to completely overlook Jordan's consistent policy and proven record of advocating moderation, trying to settle differences through dialogue, warning of dangers and seeking to avert crises," according to the official.

Jordan sent troops to Kuwait in 1992 when the emirate was threatened by Iraq and also Bahrain in the 70s when the island came under an Iranian threat in line with Amman's pledge to place its entire armed forces at the disposal of any Arab country facing aggression and external threats, the official recalled.

The strain in relations in the

wake of the Gulf crisis had led to the suspension of Arab financial assistance to Jordan, which was already straining under the burden of an \$8 billion foreign debts. The official noted that the foreign debts were incurred by the Kingdom in the first place when it borrowed extensively from foreign sources in anticipation of Arab states fulfilling a promise made in 1978 to extend help to Arab states on the confrontation line with Israel.

Except Saudi Arabia none of the countries fulfilled that promise.

But the cut-off in financial assistance is not undermining the Jordanian resolve to confront its economic problems head-on, the official said.

"We have faced crises earlier and have survived," said the official. "The pressures have taught us to rely on ourselves and be satisfied with what we have" and seek fundamental solutions to the problems."

Draft law inches ahead

(Continued from page 1)

Thus any formal or informal link with parties outside Jordan was rejected by the Parliament during Monday's session.

Also included in Article six of the draft law is a sub-article which requires Jordanian political parties headquarters and branches to be located within the Kingdom's boundaries.

Article six also prohibits political parties from being politically active in the schools, religious institutions, industry and other public and private domain.

Article six also states that party prerequisites should not include an exclusion of anyone on the basis of race, religion, sex or social status. The basis of any party should be democratic, Article six adds.

The Muslim Brotherhood group in particular has won much of its following through Friday sermons in the mosques and continued influence through most of the last two decades in the government school system.

The legalisation process of political parties should be processed through the Ministry of In-

terior, the House decided. While there was overall consensus on the role of the ministry of interior in the registering of political parties. Many deputies objected to the detailed information wanted from party founders by the ministry of interior before legalising a party, as outlined in Article 7 and Article 9 of the draft law. The two articles stipulate that the 50 members of any party present everything from birth certificates to the family registration book.

Irbid Deputy Yousef Al Khawneh called the data asked for by the interior ministry, as an "infringement on individual freedoms."

The House agreed that any member of a political party should be a Jordanian citizen "only." Any political party member should also be a citizen for a minimum of 10 years.

The House adjourned till Wednesday after passing Article nine of the political parties draft law.

A closed session was held late Monday. Neither deputies nor the House speaker would comment on the subjects discussed in the closed session.

Israelis question delegates

(Continued from page 1)

ing Shamir's mentality, the mentality of delays and of neglecting the other side," Mr. Hussein said.

He praised Mr. Rabin's pledge to try to implement autonomy for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip within a year but added "it can be done in six months."

"We believe it may be even less than nine months and we hope that such a thing will be within six months. This is what we would like to see. And we are happy that Mr. Rabin is at least talking about a time schedule."

Mr. Rabin, who is expected to

be named prime minister late this week, has said he considers contacts between Palestinian delegates and the PLO as a marginal issue.

Police said the investigation of the Palestinians' meeting in Amman would continue. "They questioned 17 Palestinians from the delegation — Fida al was among them — and released them after asking a few questions," police spokeswoman Tami Paul-Cohen said. "The investigation will continue."

The Palestinians' held their emotional and televised meeting with Mr. Arafat on June 18 as he recovered from surgery to remove a blood clot from the brain.

Rabin gets bipartisan support

(Continued from page 1)

has vowed to curb. Both Meretz and Tsomet are at odds with the religious parties. They demand curbs on state cash for religious schools and reject military exemptions for thousands of ultra-orthodox seminary students.

A source close to Mr. Rabin

said Labour leaders, trying to bridge the left-right gap, were drafting coalition guidelines focusing on giving Palestinian autonomy while skirting the contentious land-for-peace issue until later.

Likud, meanwhile, suggested to Mr. Herzog that he ask defeated Mr. Shamir to head a national unity government with Labour.

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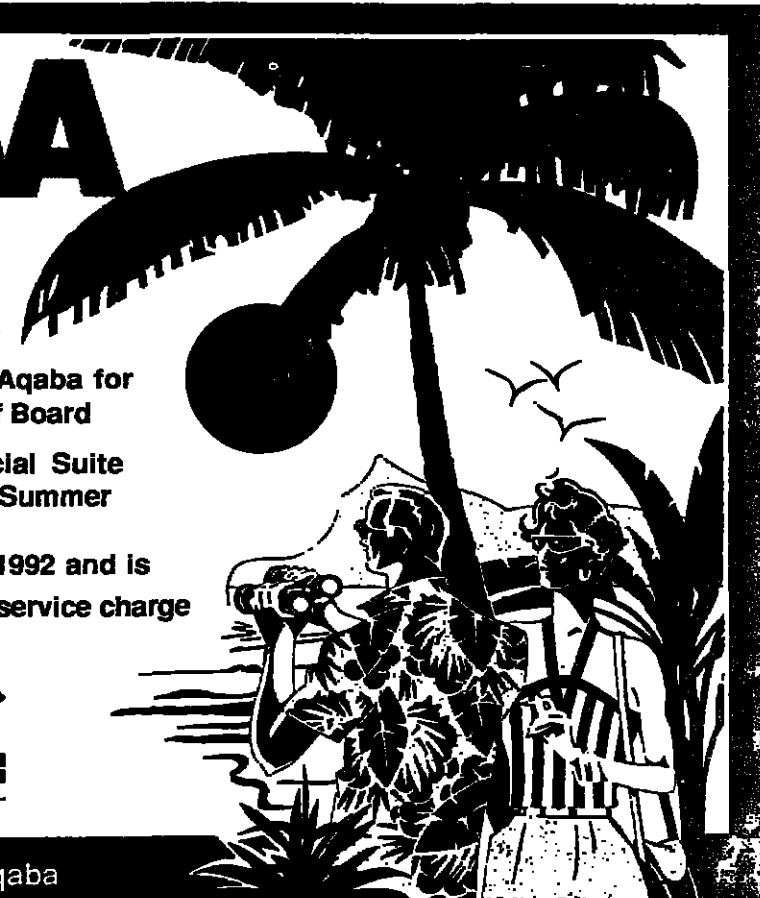
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Seles breezes into Wimbledon quarters

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — To-seeded Monica Seles breezed into the Wimbledon quarterfinals Monday with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Gigi Fernandez.

The two were deadlocked at 3-3 in the first before Seles pulled away. She will next face Nathalie Tauziat of France, who cruised past Amy Frazier 6-0, 6-3.

In another women's fourth-round match, Nathalie Zvereva of Belarus upset 13th-seeded Zina Garrison 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, and No. 12 Katerina Maleeva downed France's Julie Halard 6-0, 6-3.

All men's and women's fourth-round matches were being played on what was dubbed "marvelous Monday." It was the hottest day of the year in London, with temperatures in the 90s (30s C).

After running the gauntlet last week, barely surviving a pair of tough challenges, Boris Becker said he was ready for a few easy matches.

Stefan Edberg, meanwhile, strolled into the fourth round without losing a set.

The former Wimbledon champion arrived in the round of 16 via different paths. Edberg dropping only 12 games in three matches and Becker losing that many in each of his last two contests.

For three-time champion Becker, who had not played much beyond Wimbledon because of injuries and early-round losses, the workout has been helpful, though not necessarily relaxing. "Now maybe it's time to win a

bit quicker," he said after a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5) defeat of American Bryan Shelton Saturday. "Now I've played enough sets and points and games. I don't need a long match any more just to get in shape for Wimbledon."

It was the second straight struggle for fourth seed Becker, following a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 defeat of Martin Damm in the second round.

Second seed Edberg has spent much less time on court, winning his third-round match 6-1, 6-0, 6-2 over Grant Stafford. Also strolling into the round of 16 were third seed Michael Stich, the defending champion, and fifth seed Pete Sampras.

Meanwhile for Jennifer Capriati it has all become so routine, just part of life as a teenage tennis star.

Centre court at Wimbledon. The quarterfinals of the French Open. Autograph seekers and adulation from Hilton Head to Hong Kong. Ho-Hum.

Capriati has accomplished so much by the age of 16 that it often seems bored with the jet-setting lifestyle of the tennis tour.

But she quickly loses her air of indifference and springs to life when the Olympics are mentioned.

"It means a lot to me to be in the Olympics, even more than competing in the Grand Slam events," she said. "You are able to play for your country and it's just the greatest feeling in the world."

Capriati was only 14 when she reached the semifinals of the 1990 French Open. She reached the semifinals at Wimbledon last year by defeating Martina Navratilova in a two-day centre court thriller. She is closing in on \$1 million in career winnings.

Yet Capriati has never played in an Olympics, and she relishes the opportunity to be part of the U.S. team at Barcelona.

"I'm looking forward just to see all the athletes and feel the feeling out there with everyone," said Capriati, who will be living in the Olympic Village along with athletes from 172 countries.

Capriati will be one of the favourites for a medal in Barcelona, especially since three of the world's top four women players will miss the Olympics. Monica Seles, Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova are ineligible because they failed to make themselves available for the Federation Cup last summer.

Capriati was on the U.S. team that lost to Spain in the final of the Federation Cup last summer in England and on the winning American squad at the 1990 Federation Cup in Atlanta.

"I just like playing for my country and playing for a team instead of as an individual," said Capriati, who reveled in the camaraderie with teammates Mary Joe Fernandez, Zina Garrison and Gigi Fernandez at last summer's Federation Cup. "They say maybe you feel

more pressure because you are playing for the team, so you have to win for the team. But I really don't feel that way."

The same team will represent the United States at the Olympics. Capriati will be joined in singles by Garrison and Mary Joe Fernandez, while Mary Joe and Gigi Fernandez — who are not related — will play doubles.

There are 64 women and an equal number of men in the singles competition at the Olympics, plus 32 teams in women's doubles and men's doubles.

Tennis was one of the sports contested at the first modern Olympics in 1896 and remained a part of the games until 1924, but then disappeared from the Olympics for several decades.

It was a demonstration sport in 1968 in Mexico City and 1984 in Los Angeles, and returned to medal status at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Steffi Graf, top women's seed in Barcelona, will be trying to defend her Olympic singles title from Seoul.

"The Olympics only come every four years and with a Grand Slam you always have it the next year," Capriati said. "The Olympics are just really special."

Capriati said she hopes to get tickets for the gymnastics and track and field competitions in Barcelona, even though she knows much of her time will be spent on the Olympic day courts. "I'm sure I'll make the time," she said.

U.S. 'dream team' become nightmare for Cuba

PORTLAND, Oregon (R) — The "dream team" proved to be a nightmare for Cuba as Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler led the U.S. men's basketball team to a 136-57 massacre at the tournament of the Americas Olympic qualifying competition.

Team USA's debut lived up to advance billing in their opening Group A game as the squad stocked with National Basketball Association (NBA) superstars roared to a 67-27 halftime lead over the hustling, but woefully overmatched Cubans.

Barkley had 22 points, Drexler had 20, and Larry Bird 17 for the United States, which shot an amazing 72 per cent from the field, forced 26 turnovers and out-rebounded Cuba 41-25.

For the first time, professional players represented the United States on the hardwood in this

10-nation tournament that will fill four Olympic berths.

The Cubans were so moved by the occasion they insisted on posing for a group picture with their opponents after lineup were announced.

Cuban players mugged happily for the cameras alongside Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson. Several said later it was the highlight of their careers.

"If we speak honestly, all of us know the only team to beat that team is another NBA team," said assistant Cuban coach Miguel Calderon Gomez.

The U.S. made 25 of 31 shots in the final 20 minutes, an astounding 80 per cent from the floor. "Once you get out there, you can't really feel sorry for the other team," said Bird, the Boston Celtics' star.

Cuba were forced to play a

quick turnaround game since they began their tournament with a one-point victory over Canada Saturday.

Asked if a better-rested Cuban team could come closer than 79 points in a rematch, Gomez shook his head. "The difficulty of the U.S. team is that it's the strongest team of all times," said Gomez. "I think that's as close as we can get."

"That is a machine. There's nothing perfect in this world, but that is as close to perfect as you can get."

Gomez summed up Cuba's chances succinctly: "In Cuba, we have a saying: You can't cover the sun with your finger."

The U.S. team's 40-minute half-time lead was just a warmup to a dazzling array of fast breaks, no-look passes, and slam-dunks

in the second half. "We didn't feel destroyed or massacred," said Cuba's Angel Caballero. "We felt it was a good experience for us."

Johnson, playmaker extraordinaire, applauded the teamwork of the dream team, which had 41 assists including 12 from John Stockton and nine from Magic himself as seven players scored in double figures. Team USA hardly needed Michael Jordan, who had just six points. Johnson took only one shot.

"A lot of people said we couldn't play together," said the retired Los Angeles Lakers' guard, who quit the NBA when he tested positive for the AIDS virus.

"They said we'd need more balls, the whole thing, but you see that's not true."

Krabbe cleared to run in Barcelona Olympics

LONDON (R) — World double sprint champion Katrin Krabbe was cleared to run in next month's Barcelona Olympics after the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decided not to impose a four-year ban for an alleged doping offence.

A three-man IAAF arbitration panel found after a two-day meeting that the German Athletics Federation's (DLV) Legal Commission had correctly overturned a four-year ban on Krabbe and two of her former East German teammates imposed by the DLV in January.

The DLV suspended Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller after the trio returned identical urine samples during random testing at a training camp in South Africa.

On April 5 the DLV's Legal Commission overturned the decision and the IAAF decided to submit the case to its own independent arbitration panel. The panel decided it had to

uphold the Legal Commission's decision as it was correct under German law.

Significantly, though, it accepted evidence from Manfred Druke, head of the Cologne Drugs Laboratory, that the samples had come from the same person and that they had not been tampered with on the way to Cologne.

IAAF sources said the panel had been forced to uphold the Legal Commission's decision because there is no provision in the DLV's constitution for random testing.

"Under German law the DLV cannot make random tests, or indeed, tests of any kind," the sources said.

One of the panel members, former Australian Home Affairs Minister Robert Ellicott, said the question of the three athletes' guilt or innocence had not arisen. Krabbe herself announced the decision when she emerged from the IAAF's London headquarters

Sunday evening and said simply: "I'm free. I can't believe it."

Breuer, the world 400 metres silver medalist, said: "Obviously we are very happy, we are extremely happy with the decision."

Meanwhile, American Gwen Torrence, the women's world 100 and 200 metres silver medalist, vowed Sunday to crush German Katrin Krabbe if they meet in competition on the track at the Barcelona Olympics.

Torrence made her pledge at the U.S. Athletics trials after learning that Krabbe had not been suspended by the IAAF for a suspicious doping test.

"I just say that it's horrible," Torrence said after winning the 200 metres final at the trials. "I

am so disappointed. As athletes we know something is wrong. Our goal is to kick her butt in Barcelona."

"She is not a clean athlete. Something happened and she got off. She knows she can't compete with us without it (drugs)," said Torrence, who won both the 100 and 200 metres at the Olympic trials.

The IAAF, severely embarrassed by Krabbe's escape from a doping ban on a technicality, will ask the German Athletics Federation to urgently amend its constitution.

"We will request an urgent explanation and ask them to amend their constitution," IAAF lawyer Mark Gay said Monday.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Bageera wins Lebanon's Mountain Rally

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Maurice Salmawi, alias Bageera, won his country's Mountain Rally, the fourth leg of the Middle East circuit. Bageera, in a Ford Sierra Cosworth, had an overall time of four hours, 11 minutes and 56 seconds in 30 special stages running a total length of 330 kilometres. The three-day Mountain Rally covered 979 kilometres and featured tight, high mountain curves. Bageera's victory in the rally moved him up from third to second place in the Middle East Championship. Saudi Arabia's Mamdouh Khayat, who retains the lead in the overall standings, placed second. Driving a Lancia Delta, Khayat's total time in the special stages was 4:19.06. Techine from Monaco, in a Ford Sierra Cosworth, placed third, with a time of 4:31:08 in the special stages. Only 15 of 79 competing cars crossed the finish line. At the Mediterranean resort of Jounieh, Frenchman Alain Oreille, a favourite to win, withdrew Friday after his Renault Clio suffered engine failure. Two rallies in Kuwait and Dubai will finish the Middle East Championship.

Maradona will not return to Napoli

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (R) — Diego Maradona, whose 15-month ban from international soccer is due to expire in two days, will never go back to Napoli despite being contracted to them until mid-1993, his agent said. Maradona, 31, was banned by the International Football Association (FIFA) in April last year after traces of cocaine appeared in a urine test he took after an Italian League match. Agent Marcello Franchi told the Argentine daily Clarin in an interview published Sunday that Maradona cannot go back to Naples because it would harm him emotionally. "Diego will not return, even if he is summoned or threatened. He cannot go back to Naples because there is a hostile environment that will harm emotionally," Franchi said.

Morceli looks for fast time

LONDON (R) — World 1,500 metres champion Noureddine Morceli, who lost his only previous Grand Prix race this year, returns to the track Tuesday in the highlight event of the Helsinki Grand Prix. The 22-year-old Algerian was unbeaten for two years before losing in Rome on June 8 to Italy's Gennaro Di Napoli. Morceli complained afterwards of a leg strain which had prevented him training and his form Tuesday with next month's Barcelona Olympics imminent will be keenly assessed by his rivals. The race was originally billed as an attempt on Said Aouita's seven-year-old world record of three minutes 29.46 seconds but promoter Tina Salminen said last week that the Algerian was now aiming only for a fast time.

Foster, Kingdom out of Olympics

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Injuries and age were hurdles too difficult for Greg Foster and Roger Kingdom to overcome at the U.S. Olympic trials. Foster, the three-time world champion, and Kingdom, the world record holder and twice Olympic gold medalist, failed to earn Olympic berths in the 110-metre hurdles Sunday at the trials. Jack Pierce, second to Foster at last year's worlds in Tokyo, won the race in 13.13 seconds. Tony Dees was second in 13.23 followed by Arthur Blake in 13.30 and Foster in 13.32. Kingdom, out of contention early, tripped over the last hurdle and failed to finish the race.

Lewis misses out on Olympic sprints

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Carl Lewis may be the greatest sprinter in history, but time may have finally passed him by. Lewis, winner of six Olympic gold medals, finished fourth Sunday in the 200 metres at the U.S. Olympic trials, thus failing to earn an Olympic berth in either of the sprints. The world-record holder in the 100 metres finished sixth in that race earlier in the week and qualified for an individual event in only the long jump, where he placed second to world champion and world record holder Mike Powell. "I keep getting these hints to be just a long jumper," said Lewis, whose Olympic titles include the 200 metres crown in 1984. "This may be the biggest hint of all." Lewis, who turns 31 on July 1, was hoping to become the oldest male Olympic sprint champion in Barcelona. But those hopes were dashed when Michael Bates outlasted him in the 200 for the third and last team spot by one-hundredth of a second. World champion Michael Johnson placed first in 19.79 seconds, the fourth-fastest time ever. Mike Marsh, fourth in the 100, was second in 19.86. Bates crossed in 20.14.

S. Africa wins 47 medals

PAMPLEMOUSSES, Mauritius (AP) — South Africa's Tom Petranoff set a continental javelin record of 87.26 metres (286 feet-3 inches), winning the event on the final day of the African Athletics Championships. It was the third African record set at the games, which were dominated by the long-ostracised South Africans. South Africa, banned from the previous seven championships because of apartheid, won 16 gold medals in the four-day competition and more than 40 medals altogether. Kenya and Nigeria each won a 15 medals.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 30, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are so many tasks to be done that you hardly know where to start with the New Moon in Moonchild (Gemini) and a Solar Eclipse as you strive to hold on to the good will to those individuals and concepts to which you are heavily committed.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't be upset if your usually good but unusual friend acts in a manner contrary to your expectations for later you can quietly enjoy your loved one.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a morning when worldly activities seem to require some sudden change of objectives after which you can see ways to gain personal wishes.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new idea that occurred to you seems fraught with more difficulties than you thought so consider them and later attend to worldly duties.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A promise you made has unexpected interference so go along with current events and later be off to some interesting new appeal.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find that an outside matter presents a problem you had not anticipated but later see ways to handle it in an intelligent, satisfactory manner.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Work activities do not seem to flow as smoothly as you had wished but you later find that outside interests bring you the greatest opportunities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Talent you expected to do something about does not work out to your satisfaction but later you find you can get your surroundings in better condition.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the day to avoid a hassle at home with your mate but then you will be able to get off to amusing places to have a happy time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider what you can best do to prevent some missile or accident after which you can have a very good time beneath your own roof.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Steer clear of making any important decisions or commitments where money is concerned and later you can extract data vital to your progress.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You certainly have much confusion how best to operate conditions in the morning while tonight is excellent for getting into practical matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do in the evening to gain the objectives most vital to your wellbeing after keeping calm in the morning despite a secret anxiety.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'd like to defrost your cold heart, Stanley, but you're not cooperating."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Herl Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these 10 Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form 10 ordinary words.

REESA

UNORM

TIRRAY

NADDIC



THEY ARE THE ONES WHO WON'T FORGET YOU WHEN YOU HAVE NO MONEY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

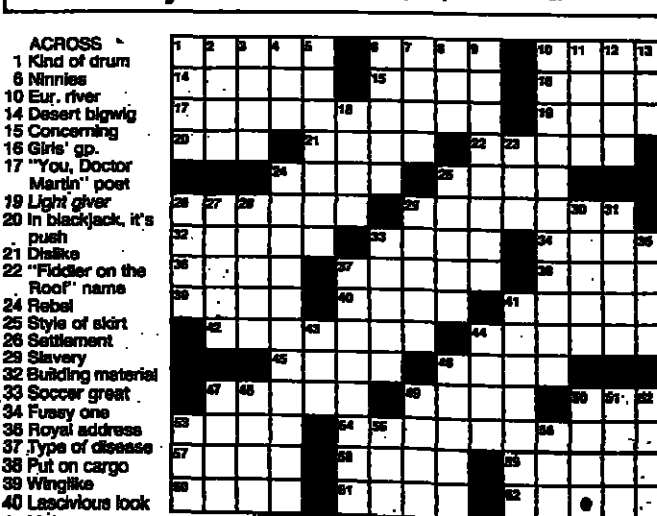
Print answer here: _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: FISHY DRONE EFFigy PENCIL

Answer: Marriage makes lots of difference, and sometimes also makes a lot of this — "DIFFERENCES"

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



44 Scratch 51 Diver
45 Overbearing 52 Owl
46 Brute 53 Muffin
47 Ketchup 54 Mountain
48 Workout places 55 Immediately

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TANNIA HIRSCH
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IMPALED ON THE FORK

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 8 4
♥ A K J 8
♦ 9 2
♣ K 4 3

WEST
♠ J 8 3
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ K 6
♣ J 10 7 6

EAST
♠ 9 7
♥ J 10 7 5 4 3
♦ A 9 8 5
♣ A 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 7 5
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A Q 8
♣ Q 2

The bidding: South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

While serving as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Cardinal Morton had a simple method for taxing merchants. If they lived lavishly, then obviously they were making lots of money and could afford to pay exorbitant taxes. And if they lived frugally, it was evident they were stealing away their wealth and deserved to be taxed equivalently. This six-of-one, half-a-dozen-of-the-other method lent its name to the bridge stratagem known as the

Morton's Fork Coup.

This hand is from the Middle East Championship. Although no bidding was reported, it might have gone as shown. After North's forcing raise, South was a trifle aggressive in cue-bidding the ace of diamonds, but 15 high-card points, the diamond tenace and good trumps merited some sign of life. Once South had made a move, there was no way that North was going to stop short of slam.

When dummy appeared, it seemed the fate of the contract hinged on the diamond finesse. However, Tahir Masood of Pakistan found a way to improve on those odds.

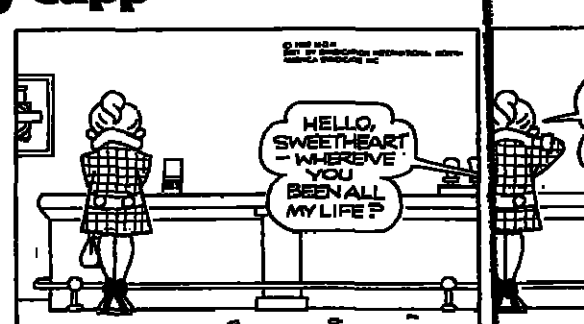
Declarer won the opening lead and drew two more rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. On the theory that West might have led the ace of clubs had he held it, declarer led a low club from dummy and East was caught in the comp.

If East rose with the ace of clubs, declarer would have been able to discard both losing diamonds — one on the king of clubs and the other on the fourth heart. But ducking proved no better. After winning the queen of clubs declarer played off four rounds of hearts, discarding the remaining club from hand. Though the diamond finesse lost, declarer was able to ruff the last of diamonds in dummy for the 12th trick.

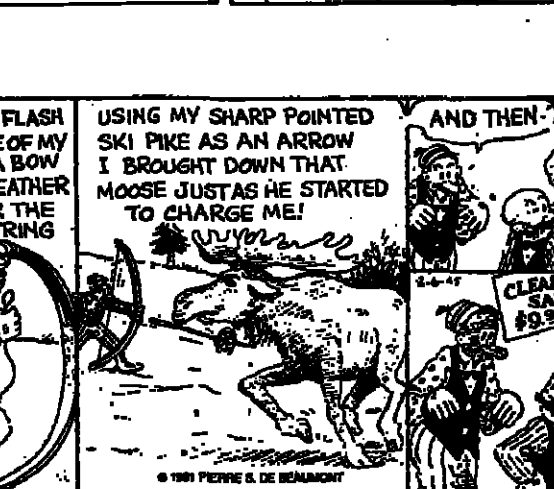
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Jeffine 1250

ANC calls on De Klerk to quit

'President admitted police out of control'

BOIPATONG, South Africa (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) Monday said South African President F.W. de Klerk last month admitted privately to ANC leader Nelson Mandela that he could not control the white-led police.

"De Klerk said to Mr. Mandela 'I have no power, I have no power over these policemen,'" ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa told 40,000 mourners at a funeral for 37 victims of a massacre of at least 41 people in Boipatong township.

The black opposition group reiterated that it would resume democracy talks only if the government stopped what it called police-led massacres of blacks and "the politics of murder."

An allied union federation said it would launch street protest by millions of people if Mr. De Klerk did not resign over the June 17 massacre and move to install non-racial democracy.

"I want to say to De Klerk the ANC will no longer tolerate the politics of murder," Mr. Ramaphosa said. "We are no longer prepared to live with the jackboot and the gun."

The ANC pulled out of multi-party reform talks called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) last week in protest at the killing, which it said

was carried out by members of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party backed by police.

The decision triggered the worst crisis facing two-year-old reforms aimed at moving the country to democracy after 300 years of white minority domination.

Police said at least 41 people were shot and stabbed to death in the massacre, but local priest E.L. Tsane and civic leaders gave reporters a list of the names and addresses of 52 people, including 22 women, they said had died in the killing.

One person was shot and hacked to death by a section of the crowd just outside the sports stadium — which was packed to overflowing — where the funeral was held, witnesses said. There was no immediate word on the motive.

Mr. Ramaphosa said Mr. De Klerk had no control of his security forces, adding that the white reformist leader had admitted to Mandela during a meeting at the second plenary session of CODESA last month that he could not control the police.

A spokeswoman for Mr. De Klerk said she would try to obtain official comment on Mr. Ramaphosa's allegation.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC had not given up on negotiations.

but Mr. De Klerk first had to take action to end violence that has taken more than 5,000 lives over the past two years.

"We will not return unless De Klerk shows meaningful and positive movement. CODESA can be forgotten because it has brought us nothing but misery,"

Mr. Ramaphosa called for an international inquiry into the Boipatong massacre and other acts of violence.

The anti-apartheid Human Rights Commission said 1,250 people had been killed in 49 township massacres in the past two years. In 15 of the massacres the death toll was above 25.

Mr. Ramaphosa gave no deadline but said the government had to end its "terror campaign," disband special forces, arrest those involved in political murder, close migrant worker hostels often controlled by Inkatha and ban the carrying of all weapons.

"All these must be done and if they are not done the chances of the ANC returning to the negotiating table... are virtually nil," Mr. Ramaphosa said.

Anti-apartheid church leaders said the white minority government had until July 15 to act to stop township violence or face a renewed campaign of international isolation.

Labour leader Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the million-member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and a key ANC ally, told the funeral:

"If you (De Klerk) don't go voluntarily we will compel you by mass action to leave. We will have millions of people on the streets. We want majority rule and we want it now."

It was the first time that a leader of a major ANC-aligned group has called for Mr. De Klerk to resign over the massacre.

COSATU spearheaded a strike in mourning for Boipatong through the Vaal region around the township Monday. Police estimated 10 per cent of workers from Soweto, the country's largest township, joined in the strike.

On several occasions in recent years COSATU has brought large sections of the economy to a halt with one- and two-day general strikes over political and economic issues.

Mr. Mandela, arriving in Senegal for the annual Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit, said Sunday a resumption of talks would depend on Mr. De Klerk's response to ANC demands for peace.



Sankatins lah mive of sive

COI (R) — More than 5,000 troops launched a joint and ground offensive Tamil separatists, militants said.

The operation in the north island was to "destroy" rebels as possible and their cadres, a military spokesman said.

Seventeen numbering more 1,000 soldiers were advanced two flanks, north and of Vettikallam, a beach the Jaffna peninsula, offside.

The attacking forces were a little resistance from the Tigers of Tamil Eelam who control much peninsula.

The have since 1983 been a for a separate homeland the north and the east country for minority Tamils complain of discrimination a government control the majority Sinhalese.

A was imposed in the north of Jaffna, Malaitive siliroch Saturday and maamil residents were told, by and leaflets, to go to safe.

"We residents sufficient time into designated schools 1 places of religious worship id getting hit in the fighting, spokesman said."

The ny officials said one of the olves of the offensive was to control of a seven kilometre road between Vettikallam Elephant Pass.

This n's land is used by travellers rebels to move in and out c peninsula without army inter.

The two crossings to Jaffna — at East Pass and a west coast cross — are controlled by the and movement is restricted.

Elephas is a causeway linking the island with the rest of the isle.

Last yea column of 8,000 soldiers left their way from Vettikallam to rescue 200 soldiers and Elephant Pass camp which been under siege for a mon.

The army 2,200 rebels and 150 soldiers killed in that battle. Tigers claimed 1,000 soldiers and rebels died in the battle.

"If we col the Vettikallam-Elephas stretch, then it would be cult for the Tigers to sneak in out of the peninsula," one sial said.

Hardliners named for top Russian army posts

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has appointed two hardliners to key military positions in a move which could give the army more muscle to react to ethnic conflicts along the fringes of the former Soviet Union.

"It is not in the tradition or the character of the Russian man to stand by and watch when civilians are killed, wounded and mutilated before our very eyes," Major-General Alexander Lebed, new head of the Russian army in Moldova, said Monday.

Months of fighting between Moldovans and separatist ethnic Russians in the Dnestr River Valley, where the Russian 14th Army is stationed, has caused hundreds of deaths.

"The (Russian) army will continue to preserve its neutrality. But the quality of this neutrality will change. It will become armed neutrality," added Gen. Lebed in remarks quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency.

A Moldovan attack this month on the town of Bender, run by the breakaway Dnestr Russians, claimed about 300 lives.

"We have no intention of putting up with the kind of genocide which took place here from June 19-22," Gen. Lebed added.

The former Soviet army, now under Russian jurisdiction and pledged to neutrality, is still stationed all over former Soviet territory.

It has become increasingly vulnerable as violence grows in Moldova, in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the south and in Central Asia to the east. Raids on barracks and attacks on military personnel are often reported in the Russian media.

Officers and soldiers, most of whom are Russians, often sympathise with their ethnic kin in

post-Soviet conflicts. But army leaders have always denied accusations they are actually backing Russian speakers outside their country.

Nationalists in Russian government circles, among them vice President Alexander Rutskoi and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, have warned that the army's neutrality might not last forever. Troops have been given the right to retaliate if attacked.

TASS also reported Monday that President Boris Yeltsin had issued an order for Colonel-General Boris Gromov to become deputy defence minister of Russia.

Gromov, who oversaw the Soviet Armed Forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, is reputed to be a hardline nationalist.

He was running-mate to right-wing former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov in Russian elections last year.

He was deputy interior minister under Boris Pugo, one of eight conservatives who tried to take power in Moscow last August. Pugo committed suicide when the coup attempt failed.

The ambiguity of Gen. Gromov's own role in the abortive putsch left him in the shadows after liberals under Mr. Yeltsin got a grip on Russia last year.

Gen. Gromov has said in several newspaper interviews since then that he was not involved in the plot.

Risks faced by Russian army personnel were highlighted by a Russian television report from the turbulent southern republic of Georgia, saying that unidentified gunmen had fired on the car of the deputy commander of the Russian army there.



Bush's daughter marries at private ceremony

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's only daughter married a former aide to one of Mr. Bush's chief Democratic critics at a private ceremony Saturday at the secluded Camp David presidential retreat.

Dorothy Bush LeBlond, whose nickname is "Doro," and Robert Koch, who until last week worked for House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt, were married in a private ceremony attended by 130 guests, the White House said in a brief statement. A navy chaplain performed the 25-minute ceremony in the chapel at the Camp David retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains. Preparations for the wedding had been made under a cloak of secrecy. The White House did not give details on the guest list. Even most of Washington's power elite was left wondering about the wedding.

Indian minister beaten with belt

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian cabinet minister was punched in the face as she left her office in Calcutta, Indian news agencies said. Youth and Sports Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters she was leaving her office Saturday when a man punched her in the face and then hit her with a heavy belt with a brass buckle. She suffered bruises about the head and face, the agencies said. The man, identified as Rama Ratan Bose, was mobbed and beaten by a crowd of people waiting to meet Ms. Banerjee and hauled off to a police station. Police were investigating the motive for the attack, the news agencies said. Ms. Banerjee was injured in August 1990 when she was hit over the head during an assault by a leftist political group in Calcutta.

Gays march in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Hundreds of thousands of homosexuals in New York, San Francisco and Atlanta had their day in the sun, lustily proclaiming their sexuality and throwing out condoms to spectators. In San Francisco, dykes on bikes, some on stilts and a perpetual shower of packaged condoms marked the city's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Parade that attracted more than half a million people. The 23rd annual parade made its way down one of the city's main thoroughfares, market street, cheered on by the city's large homosexual community. In Atlanta up to 60,000 people marched in the annual "Gay Pride" Parade chanting "we're gay — we're country — we're proud." In New York more than 200,000 people lined the eight kilometre parade route along Manhattan's posh Fifth Avenue to watch a colourful array of floats, costumes, singers, dancers and signs.

Actor Lloyd Bridges leaves hospital

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Lloyd Bridges left hospital after a successful minor heart procedure to clear a blocked artery, a hospital spokesman said. Cardiology Dr. Richard Johnson, who treated the 79-year-old actor, best known for his 1950s television series Sea Hunt, pronounced him in excellent shape, a hospital spokesman said. Bridges was at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Centre for a checkup when Dr. Johnson found a blockage of the coronary arteries, spokesman Richard Elbaum said.

Pat Cash stars on British Music Day

LONDON (R) — Former Wimbledon tennis champion Pat Cash swapped his racket for an electric guitar to play to one of his biggest audiences. Up to 10,000 people, gathered on Clapham Common in London for Britain's National Music Day, heard Cash play such pop standards such as "Heard It Through The Grapevine" and "Dancing In The Street." The Australian, one of the nearly 2,000 musicians who took part in the event, told reporters: "This is the biggest audience I've ever had in my life. I never get this playing tennis." But Cash was disappointed not to perform with his idol Rolling Stone singer Mick Jagger, an inspiration behind the National Music Day which embraced more than 1,500 venues across Britain. Jagger received the idea during a visit to France, where it is already a fixture. He put it to government ministers who agreed to lend support.

Philippines must pursue reforms — U.S. envoy

MANILA (R) — The Philippines must pursue reforms begun by the outgoing government if it wants its economy to recover, a U.S. envoy said Monday.

Elliot Richardson, Washington's representative to the multilateral aid plan for Manila, said new President Fidel Ramos must continue to reduce tariffs, free the peso and open the Philippines to foreign investment.

Mr. Ramos is scheduled to take over the presidency from Corason Aquino Tuesday.

"The Philippines has got to get out and sell itself as a place in which it makes sense to invest," Mr. Richardson told the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The U.S.-initiated Multilateral Assistance Initiative was launched in Tokyo in 1989 involving more than 20 donor nations. It pledged \$6.8 billion to help Mrs. Aquino's government revive an ailing economy.

But a series of natural disasters and a shortage of domestic funding have held up important projects.

Washington recently reduced aid to Manila from \$568 million last year to \$220 million for next year.

Manila officials said they expected the cut following the Philippine decision last year to end a U.S. military presence here.

Mr. Richardson said Washington was "in a severe budget bind" and faced mounting aid demands from other countries.

"The United States continues to regard this relationship as important not only for U.S. interest but resting on genuine ties," Mr. Richardson said.

Mr. Ramos will inherit an economy saddled with a \$29 billion debt and a severe power shortage. He has said the country needs "more trade and less aid."

Meanwhile fugitive rebel leader Gregorio Honasan in an interview published Monday urged Mr. Ramos to grant an unconditional amnesty for his munitious followers.

"Ramos must project a lot of confidence, take a lot of risks and exhibit a lot of magnanimity," the cashiered army colonel said in an interview published in the Philippine Star newspaper on the eve of Mr. Ramos' inauguration as president.

Communist guerrillas in a statement Monday called Mr. Ramos the new puppet of U.S. imperialism and said his presidency "will open the floodgates of state violence and a worsening national crisis."

Col. Honasan has been at large since April 1988 when he escaped from a navy prison ship. He led two of six coup attempts against Mrs. Aquino, nearly toppling her in the December 1989 mutiny when rebel planes bombed the presidential palace.

The military has offered a bounty of five million pesos (\$190,000) for Col. Honasan, the country's most wanted fugitive.

Among reforms Col. Honasan demanded were an end to corruption in government, an irreversible withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Philippines, and programmes to cope with poverty and unemployment.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Royalist Cambodian rebels to disarm

PHNOM PENH (R) — About 2,000 royalist guerrillas in Cambodia are expected to lay down their weapons Tuesday in line with a U.N.-sponsored peace agreement. U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Dick Palk said the guerrillas would enter a cantonment site in Siem Reap province some 350 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh. The soldiers, loyal to head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, were expected to turn over their weapons, he said. The royalist faction, known as ANKI (Armee Nationale Kampuchea Independance) is led by Prince Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. He would attend the cantonment procedure along with Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Col. Palk said. More than 9,000 Cambodian soldiers from three factions, including some royalists, have now been cantoned, Col. Palk said. Most of the 9,000 are government troops. Tuesday's cantonment will be the biggest so far involving guerrillas. Only the militant Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction is refusing to comply with the disarmament phase of the peace agreement signed last October in Paris.

Gorbachev criticises reform strategy

MOSCOW (R) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in an interview that Russia's government had made serious mistakes in its handling of economic reform. "I consider the present situation in Russia serious, extremely serious and even dangerous," Mr. Gorbachev said on Commonwealth television. "I think it's turned out that way because serious mistakes have been allowed to happen in policy and above all in the method of carrying out economic reform." Mr. Gorbachev, whose job as Soviet president evaporated last December when 11 of the country's 15 former republics united to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), also said the new grouping was not working. He now heads a Moscow-based political think-tank and has stepped up criticism of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his government, drawing fire from them in return. Gorbachev acknowledged that tough tax and credit policies implemented by the Russian government were necessary, but said the administration lacked a clear overall programme.

Amato sworn in as Italian premier

ROME (AP) — Premier Giuliano Amato was sworn in after forming Italy's 51st postwar government, barely patching together a coalition in order to end a two-month period in which the country was virtually rulerless. Mr. Amato has pledged to combat Italy's 64.6 trillion lire (42 billion) deficit, to give priority to the fight against the mafia and to pursue the reform of Italy's postwar government system, widely derided as inefficient and riddled with cronyism. But Mr. Amato failed to win support beyond the four parties that were in the coalition of the previous government, which resigned on April 24 and remained in a caretaker role. Because of its paper-thin majority in parliament, commentators said Mr. Amato's new government of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats might not last long. The 54-year-old Socialist, a former treasury minister, was sworn in after he presented a list of cabinet ministers to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, replacing the caretaker government of former Premier Giulio Andreotti which resigned after being battered in national elections.

Estonia votes on new constitution

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — A week after issuing their own currency, Estonians voted on a new constitution in another major step away from 50 years of Soviet domination. The referendum also asked whether Estonians want to give voting rights to Russian speakers living in the tiny Baltic republic who applied for citizenship before June 5. The constitution, which would be the first adopted by a former Soviet republic since the collapse of the Soviet Union a year ago, would establish a parliamentary system with a strong presidency. Elections for the 101 member parliament would have to take place by Sept. 27, under the proposed constitution. The first president would be elected directly, and future presidents would be chosen by parliament.

Thailand to hold election on Sept. 13

BANGKOK (R) — Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun Monday set Sept. 13 as the date for a general election in Thailand. Mr. Anand, brought in earlier this month to serve as interim prime minister after weeks of political turmoil, told a news conference parliament would be dissolved Tuesday. The last election, on March 22, gave pro-military parties a small majority in parliament. The pro-military parties gave the premiership to an unelected general, and hundreds of thousands took to the streets in protest. Soldiers opened fire on demonstrators last month killing scores and wounding hundreds.

Units swear allegiance to Ukraine

KIEV (R) — Three units of the Black Sea Fleet, disputed for the past six months between Russia and Ukraine, have sworn allegiance to Kiev, Ukrainian television said. It said the crew of the minesweeper Signalshchik (Signalman) took the oath Sunday and raised the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag above their vessel. On Saturday, an air communications regiment based in the Crimean port of Sevastopol swore the oath, as did a unit protecting ammunition stores in the Ukrainian town of Ochakov, the television said.

Magazine ties Collor aide to secret fund

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — A top Brazilian newsmagazine has reported that President Fernando Collor de Mello's personal secretary controlled a secret bank account that was funded by Paulo Cesar Farias and was used to pay the president's personal expenses.

Mr. Farias, Mr. Collor's former campaign treasurer and close aide, is under investigation by congress on charges that he operated a broad information peddling ring in government selling favours based on his close relationship to the president.

The report by Isto E magazine is the first to offer what it said was evidence tying Mr. Farias to Mr. Collor's inner circle. Mr. Farias and Mr. Collor have both denied any wrongdoing. Mr. Collor has stated he has not had a meeting with Mr. Farias in nearly two years.

The official Agencia Brasil quoted presidential spokesman Pedro Luis Rodriguez as saying that the president would respond to all questions raised by the report.

"The president will address the nation within 48 hours," Mr. Rodriguez told reporters at Brasilia's airport on Mr. Collor's return Sunday afternoon from Argentina where he took part in an economic summit with six South American leaders.

The corruption accusations, though as yet unproven, have rocked the nation's political and economic circles and raised calls by Mr. Collor's detractors for his resignation or impeachment.

Isto E based its report on interviews with Francisco Eriberto Friere Franca, former driver for Mr. Collor's secretary.

Clinton portrays himself more forceful than Bush

NEW YORK (R) — Likely Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton Sunday supported strong action to help the besieged citizens of Sarajevo and said Japan should be treated as the most important partner of the United States.

In an interview with the New York Times, Mr. Clinton criticised White House inaction on aid to former Soviet republics and said President George Bush "may have been a little slow on the uptake," in responding to the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

The newspaper, which published the interview Sunday, said Mr. Clinton sought to project himself as a more forceful leader than Mr. Bush in foreign affairs, normally regarded as the president's strong suit.

In reply to a question Mr. Clinton said if he were president, he would, if necessary, use military force in concert with other nations to reopen the airport at Sarajevo, the capital of war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Recent polls show Mr. Clinton running third behind Republican Bush and independent Texas billionaire Ross Perot, not yet a declared candidate, in the Nov. 3 presidential election.

But he said "of the three choices, I am the best, most likely to rebuild America's strength at home and therefore to give us the emotional and political freedom to engage the world."

In the interview Mr. Clinton accused Mr. Bush of "foot-dragging" overlooking aid to the former Soviet republics and of being too cozy with China.

"We had very tepid response to Tiananmen Square (where China killed democracy demonstrators June 1989), and then restore most-favoured-nation status without requiring any meaningful concessions on human rights China," he said.

On relations with Japan, Mr. Clinton said: "I think that the United States policy towards Japan should begin with the statement that they may well be our most important bilateral relationship now."

"It would be in Japan's interest for America to continually struggle economically," he said. "It's not Japan's interest for America to have 10 more years in which most Americans work harder for lower pay. It is in Japan's interest for this not to be a zero-sum game."

On domestic matters, Mr. Clinton said if elected he would propose an economic package that would increase financing for education and job training and emphasise tax breaks for business investment, research and development.

He also said he would introduce health-care legislation to impose cost controls on hospitals

and other providers and require universal insurance coverage.

Meanwhile Mr. Perot celebrated his 62nd birthday Saturday by phoning supporters who staged rallies in several U.S. states but spent the day out of the limelight leaving only guesses about when he will make his presidential candidacy official.

Mr. Perot, who had started his independent campaign in February by saying he would run only if his name were placed on the ballot in all 50 states, has so far qualified for the ballot in 18.

His aides say approval is pending in 10 other states including Georgia where supporters held a rally Saturday.

There had been speculation that Mr. Perot would declare his candidacy Saturday because over the years he has tied his events in his life to his birthday.

But on Wednesday he said he wanted to select a vice presidential running mate and get his name on the ballot in more states before making his official announcement.

In Atlanta Mr. Perot supporters rallied outside the gold-domed Georgia State Capitol Saturday as their organisation filed for a place on that state's presidential ballot as their "birthday present" to the billionaire.

Secretary of State Max Cleland opened up his office for the weekend to receive boxes of peti-

tions signed by 140,000 people backing Mr. Perot's bid for president. Only 25,000 valid signatures from Georgia voters were needed to secure Mr. Perot a spot on the state ballot.

In a brief telephone speech to the Atlanta rally Mr. Perot told supporters that his campaign's "momentum is booming" and said he planned to visit Georgia soon for a rally.

A telephone poll released in the past week by Georgia State University found that Mr. Perot leads President Bush in Georgia by 39-35 per cent, with Democrat Bill Clinton behind with 25 per cent. The poll had a 3.5 per cent margin of error.

Mr. Perot cut a birthday cake shaped like the White House and spoke briefly to his supporters, most of them members of his campaign staff.

In San Jose, California, about 2,000 people gathered for a "summer birthday jam."

In Boyd, Texas, about 400 people gathered for a celebration in a downtown parking lot. "We were told not to do anything for Perot's birthday, but a lot of people here are signing birthday cards and eating cake," said Johnny Fond, organiser of the Boyd event.

In Salt Lake City about 1,500 people signed what was billed as the world's biggest birthday card. There were also rallies in Montana and Pennsylvania.

Handwritten signature: J. Clinton